FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-161
Monday
20 August 1990

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-90-161 *20 August 1990*

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Vietnam, China Hold Talks on Cambodia 13 Aug

BK1808014290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Aug 90 p 3

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Vietnam and China have resumed discussions on the Cambodian conflict with "some progress" after the first round of negotiations collapsed last month.

A Vietnamese diplomat said that the second round of talks took place on August 13 between Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co and Chinese Ambassador to Hanoi, Zhang Dewei followed the preceding dialogue on August 5.

"Both countries have almost similar views on the United Nations interim mechanism and the hosting of free and fair election," said the diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

The positive results of their discussion came on the day when Vietnamese Premier Do Muoi was quoted as saying that Vietnam is prepared to quickly normalize its relations with China and solve outstanding bilateral problems through peaceful means. Do Muoi also said that the normalization would fully meet the interests of the two people.

During his visit to Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Peng also expressed hope for eventual normalization of ties with Vietnam. The relations between the two neighbours have been strained since Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia and subsequent brief Sino-Vietnamese border war.

When Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Co early last month, they differed on two major issues—the composition of an interim authority and the role of UN. Beijing supports the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge in the transitional authority while Hanoi treats the communist guerrilla as part of the resistance group led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

It was not clear from the interview what exactly were accomplished over the latest Sino-Vietnamese talks in Hanoi. But a Western diplomat based here said that the outcome of Sino-Vietnamese talks would have a positive impact on the upcoming meeting among the five-members of United Nations Security council later this month.

The Western diplomat also said that the dialogue between the United States and Vietnam have contributed to the peace process in ending the 11-year-old conflict.

Washington and Hanoi will hold the second round of talks later this month in New York. During the first meeting, Deputy Assistant State Secretary Kenneth Quinn met with Vietnamese UN Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang.

The Vietnamese diplomat reiterated that the dialogue with the US on Cambodia is part of the ongoing international forums to bring the Cambodian war to an end.

He said if the positive trend of the US-Vietnamese dialogue is maintained, the process of dialogue on Cambodia between the two countries would be quickened.

As Washington has held talks with Hanoi, the diplomat expressed the hope that Washington would also hold a direct discussion with the Phnom Penh government on Cambodia. "If the US-Phnom Penh meeting occurs, it would encourage the peace process even further," the diplomat said.

The US does not recognize the Hun Sen government installed by Vietnam. Last month, US State Secretary James Baker said that the US would vote against the United Nations seat held by the coalition resistance government and provide humanitarian assistance to children and refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border as well as inside Cambodia.

Thailand, Japan and the US have been working closely to convince all Cambodian factions to agree on the link between the formation of the transitional authority, officially known as Supreme National Council, and a ceasefire agreement.

The four Cambodian factions are scheduled to meet in Jakarta to discuss the formation of the council, which will enshrined the sovereignty of Cambodia.

Japan

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Indonesia To Reduce Oil Supply

OW1708020190 Tokyo KYODO in English 2303 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—Indonesia's state-run oil company has told Japanese customers that it will reduce crude oil supplies to them in September by about 10 percent from August, industry sources said late Thursday. The move by P.T. Pertamina follows a cut of some 16 percent in September shipments to Japan planned by Saudi Arabia.

Pertamina agreed to supply electric power companies and other Japanese users with only 170,000 barrels per day (BPD) in July and August compared with some 240,000 BPD sought by them, the sources said. For September, Pertamina offered to supply 155,000-160,000 BPD, about half the 300,000 BPD requested, they said.

The supply cuts come at a time when oil-consuming countries are trying to make up for suspension of crude imports from Iraq and Kuwait with increased imports from other oil producers.

Iran has agreed to sharply boost supplies to Japan in coming months amid fading prospects of Iraqi occupation troops withdrawing from Kuwait soon, the sources said.

Lower Economic Growth Predicted

OW1708132690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—Higher crude oil prices caused by the Middle East turmoil will lower Japan's real economic growth by about 0.1 percentage point in 1990, a Japanese think tank predicted Friday.

Sumitomo Life Research Institute made the projection on the assumption that oil prices will settle at around 25 dollars per barrel following an international embargo on oil imports from Iraq and occupied Kuwait. The institute said the sharp run-up in crude oil prices will also slash the nation's current-account surplus by 9 billion dollars.

Higher oil costs are also projected to push up overall wholesale prices by 1.2 percent, the report said. But economists at the institute ruled out the possibility of a panicky skyrocketing of oil prices worldwide as major industrialized countries have enough oil stockpiled to last 335 days.

The economists predicted that higher oil prices will have only a limited impact on Japanese economic activity as a whole because the country has already achieved a great deal of industrial restructuring toward energy efficiency. The report also said the chances are high that the effects of higher oil prices will combine to force the Bank of Japan to raise its discount rate, which currently stands at 5.25 percent per annum.

International Pressure Acknowledged

OW1708140490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—Japan is making haste to finalize plans for an operation contributing to international efforts to deter Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf, a government spokesman said. "We feel that time is running short," Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents Friday. "We just cannot keep waiting."

Acknowledging growing international pressure on Japan, Watanabe said, "Japan is now more than ever expected to take a responsible position and put that responsibility into concrete actions."

Japan, as an economic superpower dependent on the Middle East for over 70 percent of its oil, has been put on the spot as the U.S. and other major countries move beyond mere economic sanctions against Iraq to the committal of military forces to the Middle East. "This is an unprecedented operation on our part," Watanabe said, explaining that Japan has never before in the postwar period been faced with a challenge of such size and of such a nature.

The spokesman offered assurances, however, that Japan is capable of meeting the challenge, "at least in economic terms." But Watanabe said the government must first make "several breakthroughs" in the domestic sphere, where the various ministries are often at odds on policy, where surplus money is hard to come by, and where current policies restrict the overseas role of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

"We are dead serious in getting through the barriers and making some contribution in the earliest possible time," he said.

Watanabe said a Foreign Ministry task force is preparing a "menu" of possible areas of Japanese contribution for submission to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Kaifu postponed his visit to five Middle Eastern countries, which had been planned for this week, in order to direct government efforts from Tokyo, he said. Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left Japan in Kaifu's stead earlier in the day on a fact-finding mission.

The spokesman said one of the most important items for discussion in the task force is how to persuade the Ministry of Finance to provide the money for a Japanese Middle East operation out of the current budget, which has already been divided up among the various ministries.

Japanese officials have already said Japan plans to offer special economic assistance to non-belligerent countries

in the Middle East whose economies will most suffer the effects of the sanctions against Iraq. "But please don't misunderstand that we are thinking only in terms of money," he said. "We are trying to come up with a menu involving not only money but something else," he said.

Asked for specifics, Watanabe said, "Unless it is against the Constitution, everything is our target."

While ruling out the dispatch of combat personnel from the SDF due to policy and constitutional constraints, Watanabe said the idea of sending non-combat SDF personnel is "worth studying." But he indicated that a decision to send such personnel overseas, particularly to an area of combat "or anything related to the combat scene" would give rise to "quite a discussion" in Japan.

"If we decide to do that, we've (first) got to study whether it is really necessary for us to change the law or not," he said. The spokesman was referring to the Japanese Self-Defense Forces Law, which limits most operations of the SDF to Japanese territory and territorial waters, with the exception of overseas port calls for ceremonial reasons and naval exercises with U.S. forces.

"In order to make it a reality we have to go through heated discussions among government agencies as well as take into consideration public opinion," Watanabe said. He added, however, that if the multinational forces now in Saudi Arabia were brought under the umbrella of the United Nations, boosting their stature in terms of international law, "it will make our discussions much easier."

Questioned on the possibility of Japan's sending minesweepers to the Gulf, a proposal first broached some three years ago during the Iran-Iraq war, Watanabe said, "That is something we have not precluded." While acknowledging that the constitutionality of such a move might again be called into question, Watanabe said the mood of the Japanese public has changed markedly in the past three years. The Japanese people, he said, are now "talking about increased expectations (of Japan) and the need for taking some actions commensurate with our increased economic power."

Watanabe said an important consideration regarding the overseas dispatch of Japanese forces is the sentiment of Asian countries, which have strong memories of Japan's actions before and during World War II. Countries such as Malaysia and the Philippines have recently expressed concern over the prospect of Japanese economic power being translated into military power.

Nakasone Opposes Minesweepers

OW1808091190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO - Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Saturday expressed his opposition to a suggestion to send Self-Defense Force (SDF) minesweepers to the Persian Gulf as part of Japan's contribution to peace and stability in the region.

Michio Watanabe, the leader of a major faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), urged Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday to consider sending minesweepers to the Gulf as part of the international effort to persuade Iraq [to] withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

Nakasone told reporters that the current Gulf situation differs from that in 1987, when his cabinet considered sending SDF minesweepers to the Gulf to help secure oil supplies. A report published Friday quoted a government source as saying the Nakasone government decided in 1987 that dispatching SDF minesweepers to the Gulf could be justified as a constitutional act of self-defense.

Article 9 of Japan's Constitution bans the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. This is widely interpreted as prohibiting an act of collective self-defense and the dispatch of SDF troops abroad.

The source said the proposal to send Japanese minesweepers to the Gulf in 1987 was withdrawn after then Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda strongly advised against the idea. Nakasone recalled that ships from various countries were damaged in 1987 by mines laid by an unidentified country in the Gulf.

Nakasone said Japan should do its utmost to contribute to the settlement of the Gulf crisis within its constitutional constraints.

Ministry Briefs Kaifu on Options

OW1808125290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu was briefed by Foreign Ministry officials Saturday on ways for Japan to contribute to restoration of peace in the Middle East, government officials said.

Foreign Ministry officials explained to Kaifu options for Japan to offer financial and technological help to U.S. and multinational forces to check Iraq's military expansion, and to protect Japanese nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, said government officials.

The Foreign Ministry suggested a dispatch of emergency aid, including medical, transport and communications personnel, to share the cost of U.S. charter planes, and aid to Gulf nations, the officials said. The Foreign Ministry officials told Kaifu they will continue to negotiate with Iraq to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals held in custody in Iraq. Iraq has refused to allow Japanese nationals to leave the country.

The government officials said there are plans to introduce a bill in a special Diet session to revise a 1987 law to enable Japan to dispatch non-combat personnel to areas facing a crisis of war. The law now allows the government to send such personnel only to areas stricken by natural disaster.

The officials said the government is considering sharing part of the cost necessary for the United States to provide charter planes for multinational forces. The government will consider offering easy-term yen loans to nations affected by the crisis in the Gulf region, the officials said.

They said Japan will reject an Iraqi demand that Japan move its embassy in Kuwait to Baghdad.

Nakayama Meets Saudi Counterpart

OW1808135690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, Aug. 18 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama met with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal in Jeddah on Saturday to discuss the crisis in the Middle East, government officials said. Nakayama arrived in the Saudi capital from Bangkok on the first leg of an eight-day tour of five Middle East countries to explore how Japan can contribute to peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Details of the Nakayama-Sa'ud talks were not immediately known, but the Japanese minister was expected to explain Japan's stance on the regional situation, the officials said.

Nakayama was sent on the tour in place of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who decided to remain in Tokyo in view of developments in the Gulf. The tour will also take Nakayama to Turkey, Oman, Jordan, and Egypt. He will return home on August 25.

Saudi Minister Asks for Help

OW1808153190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1509 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, Aug. 18 KYODO—Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faisal asked his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama on Saturday for help to secure stability in his country and for economic assistance to other Middle East countries affected by the Gulf crisis, Japanese Government officials said.

In a 70-minute meeting, Sa'ud strongly criticized the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, saying the action was a challenge to the international order. Sa'ud said there is a possibility of further invasions by Iraq and expressed anxiety about future Iraqi military moves.

The Saudi minister said collective action will be needed to make Iraq withdraw its forces from Kuwait and restore the previous situation. Sa'ud also called for Japanese cooperation in transportation activities amid the volatile situation in the Gulf region following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Nakayama, who arrived in Jeddah earlier in the day at the start of an eight-day tour of five Middle East countries, promised Japan's best possible efforts to respond to the Saudi requests. Nakayama also told Sa'ud that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu plans to make an official visit to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East nations in early October after attending the United Nations General Assembly in late September.

Nakayama is making the tour in place of Kaifu, who pulled out of the trip due to developments in the region. Nakayama will also visit Oman, Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey before returning home on August 25. Sa'ud expressed understanding over the postponement of Kaifu's visit.

Nakayama Pledges Nonmilitary Aid

OW1908045490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, Aug. 19 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told Saudi Arabian King Fahd bin-'abd al-'Aziz on Saturday night that Japan will offer full support to Saudi efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis within the limits of its Constitution banning dispatch of military forces.

Nakayama, who arrived in Jeddah earlier in the day on the first leg of his eight-day tour of five Middle East countries, paid a courtesy call on King Fahd following a meeting with Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal.

In the 75-minute meeting with the Japanese foreign minister, the king said the Mideast situation, following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, is not a problem limited to the region, but a serious one affecting the whole world, Nakayama said. Referring to Iraqi annexation of neighboring Kuwait and the United Nations sanctions against Iraq, the king ruled out the prospect of an immediate solution to the problem and expressed concern over possible prolonged tension.

The king said a threat from the militarily stronger Iraq prompted his country to accept the U.S. and multinational forces, adding they will pull out should Iraq withdraw its troops from Kuwait. Fahd, after criticizing Iraq for its military maneuvers in Kuwait, requested Japan do whatever possible to end the Mideast crisis despite its constitutional limitations.

Nakayama outlined the Japanese Government's criticism of Iraq that Iraqi actions are a departure from accepted international practice and justified international sanctions. Nakayama also promised Japan will do whatever possible to help Saudi Arabia cope with the Middle East situation, while declining to send armed forces banned under the Constitution. Nakayama handed Fahd a message from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

The king, when told of Kaifu's visit to his country scheduled for early October, said the Japanese prime minister would be welcome. He added he wishes to visit Japan if he has the opportunity.

Returnee Describes 'Invasion'

OW1908140990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Osaka, Aug. 19 KYODO—Early morning machine-gun fire and uniformed soldiers from a hotel window provided the first glimpses of the invasion of Kuwait for a Japanese businessman who returned home on Sunday after being held captive in Iraq. But 49-year-old trading company president Suekatsu Tanaka mistook the August 2 invasion for a Kuwaiti Army drill or the filming of a movie until Iraqi soldiers assembled guests in the hotel lobby just after 8 A.M., demanding proof of nationality and employment.

Tanaka, who arrived in Kuwait on business July 31, said one soldier fired on a young Filipino hotel employee who attempted to escape, sending him to the hospital after the bullet pierced his shoulder.

Soldiers then forced hotel guests outside to a park, where they joined a group of Kuwaitis. Tanaka said he finally learned the invading soldiers were Iraqis when asking the Kuwaiti beside him if his country's military drills were rather "harsh."

Tanaka said the group hit the ground after some 50 soldiers watching them fired warning shots in the air and over their heads. The group remained there for some two hours.

After being taken by bus with a group of 30 Americans and Britons to the Iraqi city of Basra on August 5, Tanaka said they traveled the next day by train to Baghdad, where the group was held on an Iraqi army base in a room measuring some 60 square meters.

The businessman said attempts to sway their captors and a letter of grievance he and six others signed probably helped achieve his release on August 10 into the custody of an envoy from the Japanese Embassy.

Some 278 Japanese remain in occupied Kuwait, with an estimated 230 still in Iraq. Baghdad has defined Japanese, along with most Westerners, as "restrictees" and is refusing to allow them to leave the country.

Aid Law Revision Considered

OW2008060390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—The Japanese Government, amid rising Mideast tensions, is considering a plan to revise an overseas emergency aid law to enable Japan to send its noncombat personnel to areas facing the threat of war, government sources said Monday. The Government plans to submit a bill in a special Diet session in the fall to revise the 1987 law in order to "explicitly symbolize Japan's willingness to dispatch personnel overseas," one of the sources said.

Foreign Ministry officials are working on a draft of the plan as part of efforts to devise ways that Japan can contribute more to resolve international disputes, the sources said.

The sources also stressed the need for Japan to dispatch noncombat personnel to the Mideast to help restore peace in the region. But they cited difficulty in choosing the type of personnel to be sent in light of Japan's constitutional ban on the use of military force to halt international disputes.

The Overseas Emergency Aid Law allows Japan to send personnel such as medical team members, police officers, and fire fighters to areas stricken by natural disaster. Under a revised law, noncombat members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces could be dispatched overseas to disputed areas, the sources said.

Japan has so far said it might consider helping to finance a proposed UN peacekeeping force in the region and reportedly will be offering financial aid to Iraq's neighboring nations, which have been greatly damaged by economic sanctions against Iraq.

Japan also has suggested sending emergency aid, including medical, transport, and communications personnel, to multinational forces deployed in the Persian Gulf region.

The Government is expected to announce concrete assistance measures by the end of the month, once Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama returns from a tour of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt on Saturday.

Japanese Not Subject to Roundup

OW2008094490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—Japanese are not included in the Iraqi order for Westerners to assemble in major Kuwaiti hotels, a government spokesman said Monday. "At the present time Japanese are not being permitted to leave the country, however, they are not being forcibly rounded up," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tadamori Oshima said.

Oshima said he is hopeful that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will be able to persuade Iraq to allow foreigners to leave Iraq and Kuwait. He cautioned, however, that Iraq's treatment of foreign detainees continues to be very unpredictable. The Japanese Government is analyzing why Iraq ordered citizens from certain countries to report to central locations, he said at a news conference.

Oshima declined to describe Japan's efforts to gain the release of its citizens, saying only the government is using "various channels."

A government source said that Japanese in Kuwait could be forcibly moved to Baghdad after August 24, Iraq's

deadline for uniting Kuwaiti diplomatic missions with those in Iraq. "If Iraq uses force, we'll have to follow orders," the source said.

On Sunday Iraq ordered British, French, West German, and American citizens to go to three hotels in Kuwait, after which they will be sent to military bases. Baghdad has pledged to keep the detainees at key military sites as long as there is a threat of war in the region.

There are 278 Japanese stranded in Kuwait, 260 of them assembled at the embassy. As of Sunday there were 231 Japanese in Iraq, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Timing of Contributions Discussed

OW2008110090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—A top Foreign Ministry official on Monday said the timing of Japan's planned contributions to international efforts aimed at countering Iraqi aggression in the Middle East does not hinge on the return from that region of Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Nakayama's absence from Tokyo is not an obstacle to Japan's implementing some of the measures now under consideration before the foreign minister returns Friday from a tour of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.

The official also denied that the implementation of measures would necessarily be held off until the next cabinet meeting, which is scheduled for August 28. He said that areas of contribution worked out early on in the consideration process will be implemented without waiting for those moves which require more time to facilitate.

Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama, meanwhile, told reporters that Japan is considering everything short of direct military assistance. Under the current circumstances, he said, it would not be appropriate for Japan to extend merely "money and materials" if it is to meet its international responsibilities.

Kuriyama said it is important at this juncture for Japan to consider dispatching nonmilitary personnel. But he acknowledged such a move might entail revisions of existing laws or the promulgation of a new law. A Foreign Ministry task force is preparing a list of possible ways Japan can contribute to the Gulf effort for submission to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

U.S. Asks Greater Burden-Sharing

OW2008124790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 20 Aug 90

[text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—The United States has called on Japan amid the Persian Gulf crisis to increase its financial support for U.S. Forces in Japan and to include the purchase of major U.S. military equipment in its next defense buildup plan, a Foreign Ministry source revealed Monday. The source said the U.S. Government has asked Japan to pick up a larger share of the cost of stationing American military forces in Japan, some of which have been dispatched from Okinawa to the Gulf region.

The U.S. Government has also formally requested that Japan purchase U.S.-made airborne warning control system (AWACS) planes and aerial refueling tankers under its defense program beginning in fiscal 1991, the source said.

The source said Japan told the U.S. it could not say definitely whether it will buy AWACS or aerial tankers, as the government is still in the process of deliberating the next defense plan. But, on the request for increased burden-sharing, the source said, "we must take this into consideration."

He indicated that the government would positively consider the matter in the context of its plans to come up soon with a package of concrete contributions to international efforts to counter Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf.

The Foreign Ministry source said U.S. Government officials pointed out that Japan, which depends on the Middle East for some 70 percent of its petroleum, benefits from the dispatch of American forces to the Gulf region and thus has a role to play. The U.S. officials estimated the cost of the U.S. operation at some 1 billion dollars a month [figure as received], the source said.

The U.S. requests follow President George Bush's telephone call last Tuesday to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in which he called on Japan to help bail out countries whose economies will suffer as a result of economic sanctions against Iraq.

Another Foreign Ministry source on Monday revealed that Japan plans to make funds available to help Saudi Arabia care for the estimated 300,000 Kuwaiti refugees there.

Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama, meanwhile, told reporters that Japan is considering everything short of direct military assistance in its planned package of contributions.

He stressed the necessity for Japan to send not only money and materials to the Gulf region, but personnel as well.

Iran To Increase Oil Exports

OW2008142890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Kanazawa, Aug. 20 KYODO—The chairman of Komeito, the No. 2 opposition party, said Monday the Iranian ambassador to Japan has told him that his nation hopes to triple its crude oil exports to Japan. Koshiro Ishida said ambassador Hosein Kazempur-Ardebili told

him in their talks last Tuesday that Iran would like to triple its crude oil exports from the amount it exported to Japan before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

"The ambassador said he wanted to step up exports from the current 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) to about 700,000 bpd," said Eisuke Yamada, a lower house representative of the same party, elaborating on Ishida's comments. The chairman made his remarks during an address here, which was also attended by Yamada.

During the first half of the year, crude oil exports to Japan from Iraq and Kuwait totaled 450,000 bpd, according to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Industry sources interpreted Kazempur-Ardebili's comments as meaning that Iran would like to step up production to make up for the amount lost from the embargo on Iraq and Kuwait.

3 E. European Nations To Be Exempt From Cocom

OW1808093090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Three East European countries will likely be exempted from Cocom export controls, government sources said Saturday. The sources said the three nations are Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, which are moving toward market economies. The Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, the Paris-based trade regulatory body known as Cocom, has already decided to exempt East Germany from the regulatory list upon its unification with West Germany late this year.

A decision on whether to exempt the three East European countries is expected to be made at a high-level Cocom meeting next January, the sources said. They said Cocom plans to complete by the end of this year a review of restricted items in the industrial goods category, reducing them to about 50 items, less than half of the 116 items at the end of 1989.

The three East European countries have pledged to institute export control and safeguard systems to prevent the outflow of restricted items to the Soviet Union and other communist nations, the sources said. The restricted items in the indusrtrial goods category include machine tools, computers, and other sophisticated goods.

In addition, Cocom restricted 23 items in the atomic power-related category, including items related to the production of nuclear bombs, and 26 items in the weapons category such as missiles.

The ongoing democratization in the Soviet Union and East European nations prompted Cocom to start its review of the industrial goods control list since the turn of the year, and 30 items were removed from the list by the end of June, the sources aid. Under the continuing review, the number of restricted items was reduced to 16 to East Germany and 17 items to Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary in July

Cocom also plans to review the ban in the weapons and atomic power-related goods categories in 1991 or later in view of the East-West detente, the sources said.

Alien Registrations Mailed to Kaifu in Protest

OW1708104190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—The Justice Ministry is holding the alien registration cards of five Korean and Chinese residents in Japan who sent them by mail to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in protest of having to carry the documents at all times, officials said Friday.

Authorities diverted the cards, sent from Osaka on Tuesday, from the prime minister's official residence to the Justice Ministry on Thursday after having learned of the action. The protesters mailed the cards so they would reach Kaifu on August 15, the 45th anniversary of Korean independence from Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule.

Immigration officials said they will decide whether to press charges against the four Koreans and one Chinese after consulting with local police and government authorities. But officials said the mailing of the cards is a clear violation of the alien registration law, adding that the protesters do not fall under exceptions to the law agreed upon after negotiations this April between South Korea and Japan.

The April accord exempts legally defined third-generation Korean residents from the card-carrying and fingerprinting requirements of the alien registration law. Some 700,000 resident Koreans and a smaller number of resident Chinese live in Japan. Almost half have permanent residence status.

Stronger Antinuclear Proliferation Steps Urged

OW1708140990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1352 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—Japan will press for stronger enforcement measures to halt the spread of nuclear arms at an international review of the 20-year old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) to be held next week, the government said Friday.

The NPT Reviewing Committee opens its fourth session in Geneva, Switzerland on Monday, with the aim of resolving problems in the treaty, which is widely expected to be extended after it expires in 1995. Japan will propose that the nuclear 'club' of nations possessing atomic weapons open all their nuclear facilities for peaceful use to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), officials said.

Nuclear nations are now allowed to specify which sites will be open to inspection by the United Nations body while signatories without nuclear weapons must open all sites.

Japan will also seek stronger controls on the export of nuclear technology, requiring detailed explanations on the purpose of related equipment before granting permission for its export.

In addition to the professed nuclear powers of China, Britain, France, India, the Soviet Union and the U.S., several other nations are believed to have the capability to produce nuclear arms. Japan will also press for non-signatory nations to join the treaty as well as greater arms reduction efforts by members of the nuclear club.

Officials Comment on Talks With U.S.'s Yeutter

OW2008070090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—Visiting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter on Monday told his Japanese counterpart Tomio Yamamoto that he hopes Japan will "understand" that the rice issue is a matter of great concern to the United States, Japanese officials said.

Referring to his recent visits to Southeast Asian countries, where he met with government officials to talk about trade issues, Yeutter indicated the rice issue is the key to the success of the overall as well as the farm negotiations at the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Yamamoto answered, "Rice is more than an issue of concern to Japan. It is a matter of life and death to us," according to Hisao Azuma, director general of the ministry's International Affairs Department.

Yamamoto added that Japan will seek the understanding of other countries on Japan's basic stance on the issue at the Uruguay Round of talks, Azuma said. But the two did not delve into the details of the rice problem, apparently because they discussed it in July at a meeting of farm ministers of five industrial nations in Ireland, Azuma said.

At the Ireland meeting, Yeutter proposed the so-called tariffication scheme—under which Japan would convert its import restrictions on farm products into tariffs and reduce them gradually. At the Monday meeting, however, Yeutter did not say anything about the scheme, nor make any direct comments on liberalization of Japan's rice market, Azuma said.

Yeutter is visiting Japan in an apparent bid to soften the rigid opposition of the Japanese Government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to opening the Japanese rice market. Yeutter met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on August 10 during the first part of his trip to Japan.

Since returning to Japan following the Southeast Asian visit, he has met Shintaro Abe, former secretary general of the LDP, and other senior LDP members.

Agency Trims Funds for Miyake Island Site

OW1908111990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 19 KYODO—The Defense Agency has decided again to scale back preparations to shift night landing drills for U.S. military aircraft to Miyake Island off Tokyo Bay in the face of continued resistance by island residents, agency sources said Sunday.

Agency officials are virtually unanimous on the inevitability of abandoning the plan to shift U.S. fighter drills from the mainland to the small island some 180 kilometers south of Tokyo, citing strong opposition from residents, the sources said.

But funding requests for weather and site surveys on the island, now far behind schedule, will be trimmed heavily for the second year in a row. The present staff of six agency officials attempting to persuade islanders to support the plan will also be cut back to four, they said.

Defense officials are expected to informally consult government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party politicians to help gain U.S. consent to dropping the plan despite past government commitments. The project involves the contruction of runways and other facilities on Miyake Island for U.S. naval jets now drilling at a mainland site at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Atsugi west of Tokyo.

The agency will hold its requests for the 1991 fiscal year down to 150 million yen after trimming the envisioned costs by a full one-third in the previous year to 200 million yen. Some 700 million yen has already been spent on the Miyake Island site since the start of preparations in 1987.

Defense officials have suggested the alternative use of the distant island of Iwojima for the drills. The island was the site of one of the fiercest battles of World War II.

Construction is already under way on the island, which is scheduled to be ready for partial use by late 1990 or early 1991, the officials said.

MITI Mission To Study U.S. Commodities System

OW2008103290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will send a fact-finding mission to the U.S. to study the commodities fund system for expected introduction of that investment instrument in Japan, MITI officials said Monday.

The mission, comprising experts from MITI and its advisory panel on commodities exchanges, will leave Japan on Saturday to visit commodities markets in Chicago and New York.

The mission members will also meet with officials of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission to study the U.S. legal systems of commodities funds and their economic implications, the officials said. Commodities funds, like ordinary stock investment funds, are investment instruments under which the trustees invest the capital trusted by investors on the commodities market.

In the U.S., the aggregate sums of commodities funds have increased sharply to 8 billion dollars in 1989 from 200 million dollars in 1980.

In Japan, this kind of investment fund is still prohibited. But MITI hopes to revise the law or enact a new law for introduction of commodities funds within the next five years.

Outgoing Soviet Ambassador Talks With Nakasone

OW1808081290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0718 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and outgoing Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solovyev agreed Saturday on the need for a comprehensive approach to solve a long-standing territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union, Nakasone's aides said. Solovyev, Moscow's ambassador to Japan for the past four years, visited Nakasone's office in a farewell call on the former prime minister.

Nakasone pointed to the importance of improving Japan-Soviet relations amid easing tension in the world, the aides said.

Nakasone said the territorial dispute, over four islands off Hokkaido held by the Soviets since the end of World War II, must be settled before bilateral relations can improve. However, he stressed a comprehensive approach, including Japanese economic cooperation with the Soviet Union, to solving the territorial issue.

Solovyev said he shares Nakasone's view and promised to convey it to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is scheduled to visit Japan next year, according to the aides.

Japan maintains its claim over the islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomais. The dispute has prevented the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries. Gorbachev's visit next year is expected to break an impasse in peace treaty negotiations and help in the development of full- fledged bilateral relations.

Maltese Prime Minister Calls on Kaifu 20 Aug

OW2008073590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO—Maltese Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami told Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday that the Persian Gulf crisis is damaging his country's economy. Adami, host of last year's historic superpower summit that pronounced the end of the Cold War, was also quoted as saying a Kuwaiti loan for an electric power plant, promised a month before Iraq's August 2 invasion, is now on ice.

The crisis also throws in question 15 million dollars worth of trade the 350,000 population country conducts per year with Iraq, Adami said in a 20-minute meeting with Kaifu.

Adami, here on a stopover following an official visit to Australia, urged Japan to invest in Malta in order to gain ready access to the European Community Market following the EC's market integraction in 1992, Foreign Ministry officials said. The small Mediterranean nation has applied for full membership of the European Community.

Earlier in the day, Malta suggested establishing direct air links with Japan. However, Japanese Transport Ministry officials replied there is not yet sufficient demand.

Adami, here since Sunday on a three-day unofficial visit, is the first Maltese prime minister to visit Japan in 22 years. He is to leave for South Korea on Tuesday, the last stop before returning home.

Yamaguchi Chosen To Fill Upper House Seat

OW1808035490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0330 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Koichi Yamaguchi, chief of the Secretariat of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], was formally awarded a seat in the House of Councillors on Saturday as a runner-up in the LDP candidates' list in the 1986 upper house election, officials of the Central Election Administration Committee said.

He will fill the seat vacated by the death July 15 of LDP upper house member Teru Miyata. The committee, under the Home Affairs Ministry, confirmed that the 60-year-old Yamaguchi will fill the remainder of Miyata's term, lasting until July 7, 1992, the officials said.

Half of the House of Councillors' 252 members are elected every three years.

Yamaguchi was No. 25, the last candidate on the ruling party's proportional representation list, in the 1986 election. Yamaguchi, who was born in Saitama Prefecture, has been a party staff member since 1953.

Ministry To Expand Postal Savings Funds' Scope

OW1708121190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry plans to expand the scope of its discretionary investment of postal savings funds to include commercial paper [CP] and loans to local governments, ministry officials said Friday.

The ministry is allowed to use part of postal savings funds at its own discretion for investments seeking higher returns to cope with financial liberalization in Japan, which much of the funds goes to the Finance Ministry's trust fund bureau as a major source of spending on public works. [sentence as received]

The officials said investment in government bond futures and options is another possibility currently being considered for the diversification of such investments. The moves, subject to negotiations with the Finance Ministry, are designed to boost investment returns to offset a possible increase in fund-raising costs amid liberalization of rates on both bank deposits and postal savings, they noted.

Currently, postal savings funds are mainly invested in government bonds and other fixed-income instruments. The officials said the interest rate on loans to local governments generally is quite low, but such lending should still bring greater returns than government bonds.

The flow of postal saving funds into CP, the officials explained, should not pose any disruptive threat to the money market as the outstanding balace of CP has grown to exceed 10 trillion yen.

As for bond futures and options, the officials said investment in such instruments is intended for hedging purposes to forestall any risks from price swings in government bonds. The amount set aside for such a fund in fiscal 1990 is 11 trillion yen, but is slated to increase to 15 trillion yen in fiscal 1991.

North Korea

Further Reaction to Events in Persian Gulf

Report on U.S. Airlift Cited

SK2008063790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] According to a report from Tokyo on 15 August, the U.S. imperialists have sent U.S. forces based in Okinawa to the Gulf area, where a complicated situation has been created due to the Iraq-Kuwait conflict.

Information from U.S. military sources, which has been confirmed by KYODO, said that about 4,000 troops of the 3rd [as heard] U.S. Marine division have been transferred to the Gulf area from Okinawa since last August 8.

The operation has reportedly been carried out by the airlift means of the U.S. Marines.

Almost synchronized with this large-scale airlift operation, an early warning plane called a flying radar reportedly flew off to somewhere.

With regard to this, the Japanese press has reported that the U.S. imperialists were planning to send up to 11,000 U.S. Marines to the Gulf area from Okinawa.

U.S. Blockade Denounced

SK2008072490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports, the U.S. imperialists, who have endlessly aggravated the situation in the Gulf by deploying massive armed forces, finally started naval blockade operations there on 16 August. That day, U.S. President Bush reportedly ordered the U.S. warships, which had been deployed in the Gulf area and its surrounding waters, to start operations to barricade all the ships that sail to and from Iraq and Kuwait with goods aboard.

A statement the U.S. Department of State released in connection with this declared that, at the request of the Kuwaiti Government in exile, Bush's order will apply to all the multinational forces which had been deployed to the Gulf area and that the United States will be a coordinator in this process.

The UN Charter considers a naval blockade as an act of war. In an effort to escape restrictions from such a rule, the U.S. imperialists termed their naval blockade a barricade. If we just see how they are conducting these operations, however, it is clear this is, in essence, a blockade of Iraq and is tantamount to a declaration of war. A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Defense said that the captains of U.S. warships that were deployed in the operations were fully authorized to use force of arms against any ship that disregards their order. In this way, he admitted the barricade operations are nothing but a combat action. This shows that the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to militarily interfere in the Gulf situation have entered a new grave stage.

As an act that threatens the safety of not only Iraqi and Kuwaiti ships but also all the other ships that pass through the Gulf waters, the Arabian Sea, and the Red Sea, the U.S. imperialists' new operations are an international piracy that can never be tolerated. The U.S. imperialists must keep in mind that they will be held duly responsible for grave consequences that may arise from this act, and must immediately stop committing the act of deliberately aggravating the situation in the Gulf.

Reportage on Reaction After Rally Continues

ROK Actions Criticized

SK1808101890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 18 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group whisked away more than 580 dissident organisation affiliates and students across South Korea in connection with the pan- national rally.

This is the topic of a NODONG SINMUN commentary today, which says the No Tae-u military fascist clique brandished the sword and fired teargas at patriotic figures and students to block their way to Panmunjom for the pan- national rally. This brutal act showed how desperately the fascist clique are trying to stem the trend of the times toward reunification, it notes.

It has been brought to light this time that the traitor No's clamour about "grand inter-Korean exchanges of people" and the like was a bald-faced lie, nothing but a propaganda ad aimed at deceiving public opinion and delivering himself from the hopeless political crisis, the news analyst says, and stresses:

The No group must stop mocking the nation with the question of national reunification, the supreme desire of the nation. Moreover, it must give up the insidious attempts to use the reunification question to defuse the crisis of the colonial rule which is condemned and rejected unanimously by the South Korean people.

Kim Il-song Receives Delegates

SK1808102890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 18 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the delegates who had participated in the Pan-National Rally [PRN] for Peace and Reunification of the Country.

Present there were the delegates of the South side's promotion headquarters and overseas promotion headquarters for the PNR, and heads and members of the delegation of Koreans in North America, the delegation of Koreans in Europe, the delegation of the promotion headquarters in Japan, the delegation of Koreans in the Soviet Union, the delegation of Koreans in China and the delegation of Koreans in Japan.

On hand were Chairman Yun Ki-pok and Vice-Chairmen Yo Yon-ku and Chon Kum-chol of the North side's preparatory committee for the PNR.

President Kim Il-song warmly congratulated them on the success of the pan-national rally and conversed with them in a warm atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic sentiments.

He arranged a luncheon for the delegates.

USSR Assesses Results

SK1908081490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0800 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Soviet Union assesses the Pan- National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country as an affirmative progress in the way of reunification, according to a TASS report.

He said this in a statement released on August 17 in connection with the Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country held in Panmunjom.

The Soviet Union hopes that, after the rally, all the participants in the North-South dialogue will renew their efforts to attain the national harmony and reconciliation and create a favourable condition for the national reunification, the spokesman said, and stressed:

Such a grand political function for the relaxation of tensions and peace and reunification which was held at Panmunjom dividing Korea into the North and the South demonstrated the desire of the Korean people to reunify the nation and find a new formula and way for North-South dialogue.

Pan-National Alliance Formed

SK1908110290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—The "Pan-National Alliance for Country's Reunification" (Chotongnyon) was formed.

The Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country held at Panmunjom on August 15 took a measure for forming the "Pan-National Alliance for Country's Reunification" as a nation-wide joint organisation to realise great national unity and accelerate the reunification of the country.

According to this, delegates of home and overseas sides who participated in the rally consulted with each other and decided to inaugurate the "Pan-National Alliance for Country's Reunification," a nation-wide organisation for the reunification movement.

In a press conference today at Koryo Hotel in Pyongyang, spokesman for the alliance Hwang Sok-yong spoke of the purport of its formation and Secretary General Im Min-sik said [spoke] about the structural organisation process of the alliance.

The co-Presidium consists of four delegates of the North side, four delegates of the South side and six delegates of the overseas side.

Ho Tam, Yun Ki-pok, Chang Chol and Yo Yon-ku were selected from the North side and Chong Kyu-myong, Kwak Tong-ui, Kim Song, Yi Chol-chae, So Man-sol and Yi Haeng-u from the overseas side.

As the South side was not present at the consultative meeting, it was decided to entrust the South side's promotion headquarters with selection.

It was decided to have the headquarters of the permanent body in Berlin.

KCNA Cites Chinese Daily

SK2008051090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Beijing August 18 (KCNA)—The CHINESE PEOPLE'S DAILY on August 18 carried an article titled "They Call for Reunification", which spoke highly of the successful Pan- National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country.

The entire Korean people, whether they live in the North or the South or overseas, speak loudly from the bottom of their hearts that Korea is one and she must be reunified, the paper said, and continued:

The self-determined and peaceful reunification of Korea has already become a common desire of the entire Korean people.

The Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country held at Panmunjom fully showed this desire.

We believe that the day is bound to come when Koreans in the North, the South and overseas will sit face to face and freely travel.

Daily Criticizes No Tae-u's 15 Aug Address

SK1808072990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0818 GMT 17 Aug 90

[NODONG SINMUN 17 August commentary: "Ridiculous and Brazen-Faced Jargon"]

[Text] On 15 August, traitor No Tae-u of South Korea delivered a so-called a commemorative address, on the occasion of the anniversary of National Liberation Day.

In a nutshell, traitor No Tae-u's commemorative address, indeed, was brazen-faced and ridiculous jargon aimed at bridging over political crises of being driven into a corner, by covering up the South Korean reality—colonial fascist dark society—and by smoothing over the growing reunification movement of the popular masses with each passing day.

Up to the present commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the fatherland liberation from Japanese imperialist colonial rule, a genuine anniversary of liberation day has not been marked in South Korea. This is because South Korea has been deprived of real power in all fields—including politics, the economy, culture, and the military—by the U.S. occupiers. And, this is because South Korea has been left as an outright colonial military base and as the U.S. nuclear-forward base, the largest in the Far East.

The puppet, who has entirely left the interests of the nation and the people to his master and served as a stooge of aggression, held a so-called a commemorative ceremony for National Liberation Day. This is a presumptuous and ridiculous act.

Still worse, he babbled about national spirit and sovereign independence, while serving aggressors as if they were his grandfathers. And, he raved that he is opening an era of democracy, while making a high-handed military fascist dictatorship against the South Korean people. This is an unbearable insult and mockery of the fallen patriots who sacrificed their lives in the fight for national independence and democracy.

What cannot be overlooked is that the traitor No Tae-u once again made a mockery of the fellow countrymen with the question of reunification, that is, the long-cherished desire of the nation. To put an end to the tragedy of division and realize national reconciliation, unity, and reunification, he should, above all, pay attention to settling a question, that is, a stumbling block to reunification.

If he genuinely wishes reunification, he should, above all, withdraw the U.S. imperialist aggressors from South Korea, give up the anticommunist and confrontation policy, and refrain from activities aggravating North-South relations.

No Tae-u, however, made no mention of the question of removing the stumbling blocks to reunification, while talking as if he were interested in national reconciliation, unity, and reunification. To make matters worse, No Tae-u tried to justify the South Korean occupation by the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, and distorted reality, by saying that there is no longer any outside stumbling block to reunification.

Because of the illegal military occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists, our country's division was created and has lasted. The aggression forces, which are a mastermind of division and a major stumbling block to reunification, have dominated South Korea and are still on the rampage there. Therefore, saying that there is no outside stumbling block to reunification is gibberish.

How on earth can No Tae-u achieve reunification, while ignoring the basic questions that should be preferentially settled for reunification? And, what on earth is the independent determination of reunification that he has repeated?

Saying it is possible to achieve reunification without withdrawal of the U.S. forces is a treacherous logic which can be understood only by traitors. This shows that the wretches still harbor the criminal intention to try to realize their ambition of realizing reunification by prevailing over communism.

Traitor No Tae-u clamorously talked about destruction of the West-East German barrier and of their reunification. And he talked about the question of pioneering a

course for reuniting the North and the South as a common body. But he made no mention about the question of pulling down the concrete wall built in the South side's area along the military demarcation line, which is a symbol of North-South confrontation and division. In addition, he has turned a deaf ear to the question of abrogating the heinous National Security Law, which regards brethren as the enemy.

He entirely avoided talking about the questions that should be practically settled for national unity and reunification. In spite of this, does he have the face to talk about reunification, reconciliation, and free visits?

No Tae-u glossed over the responsibility for failing to realize the pan-national exchanges on the occasion of 15 August. This is nothing but a ridiculous excuse to avoid his responsibility. Free visits and contacts between the North and the South have not been realized. The South Korean authorities should be entirely responsible for this.

Currently, the South Korean persons in authority did not allow us to go toward the South, and prevented by violence the South Korean figures from all walks of life and the South Korean organizations from going toward the North. Thus, they revealed the fictitious and deceptive nature of their plan of national exchanges by their own activities.

Even though the South Korean persons in authority spin out a long string of pretexts, can there be anyone that believes those who prevented civilian people from meeting each other in Panmunjom while talking about allowing visits to the North, and those who blocked even a contact between a few persons while talking about a grand exchange of visits?

Denouncing No Tae-u's plan of national exchanges as political propaganda which made bad use and a mockery of the ardent desire of the people, the South Korean people themselves insisted that No Tae- u make an apology before the people and that the prime minister and minister of the Unification Board be dismissed.

No Tae-u has no right to talk about free visits and has no face to talk about national reconciliation and reunification. Even though No Tae-u hides himself with a mask, he is still a traitor and a person of antireunification.

If No Tae-u genuinely intends to achieve national reconciliation, unity, and reunification, he should, above all, withdraw the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, a major stumbling block to reunification; pull down the concrete wall, which is a material and political barrier between the North and the South; abrogate the National Security Law; and give up the poisonous and closed unified channel of dialogue.

If No Tae-u continues to make a mockery of us with the question of reunification and try to abuse the question of reunification for the security of his regime, he cannot avoid the harsh judgment of the nation.

College Diploma Awarded South Student 'Martyr'

SK1908090890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0840 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—A diploma of Nampo University of Education was awarded to Kim Song-su who was a student of the College of Natural Science of Seoul University in South Korea at the 22nd graduation ceremony of the university held on August 18.

Kim Song-su who had been cruelly murdered by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets was registered 4 years ago as an honorary first-year student of the geography course of Nampo University of Education.

A letter to be sent over radio to his parents was read out at the ceremony.

Saying although the fellow student left us, his soul remains alive in the minds of our teachers, students and graduates, the letter expressed the hope that his parents would staunchly fight till the day when independence, democracy and reunification the martyr so earnestly aspired after have been realized.

Daily Urges Nationwide United Reunification Move

SK1908085590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0827 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—In order to strengthen the motive force of reunification and thus guarantee the overwhelming predominance of the reunification forces over the separatist forces within and without and accomplish the cause of national reunification, all the Koreans in the North, South and overseas must firmly unite under the banner of national reunification and form a nationwide united front, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-liner today.

It further says:

Every Korean, whether he or she lives in the North, in the South or abroad and whether he or she is a worker, peasant, student, statesman, businessman, a man of culture or a religious man—all of them have the noble national duty to contribute all their energy and intelligence to the cause of national reunification as befitting the master of reunification.

If the Koreans at home and abroad are to faithfully discharge their noble national duty, they must firmly unite under the banner of national reunification and form a nationwide united front.

Our nation has urgent interests in recovering its lost territory and nation from the U.S. imperialist aggressors and achieving national independence throughout the country.

Drawing on these common interests, we can unite as a homogeneous nation transcending differences in ideology and idea, political view, religious belief, system and political party affiliation and form a nationwide united front.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's policy of forming a nationwide united front fully manifests his steadfast independent stand, high spirit of national independence and iron will for reunification, the great leader firmly believing in the strength of the nation and intending to remove difficulties and obstacles lying in the way of reunification by the concerted efforts of the nation and accomplish the cause of reunification at any cost, the by- liner says, and stresses:

The August 15 pan-national rally decided to form "a pan- national alliance for country's reunification" as a joint nationwide organization of the patriotic forces of reunification. This will bring about a new turn in strengthening the internal forces of the nation for the country's reunification and expanding the reunification movement nationwide.

Military Armistice Commission Holds 457th Meeting

SK2008051190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0210 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The 457th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is taking place at Panmunjom at our side's proposal.

As is already known, our side on 4 August requested the U.S. side to hold the MAC meeting at 1100 on 9 August 1990. Because of the unjust delaying maneuvers of the U.S. side, however, the 457th MAC meeting could only be held today, being delayed more than 10 days.

At the meeting, our side exposed that the U.S. side recently increased its aggressive forces in South Korea, ignoring the Armistice Agreement and international trend for detente and disarmament, and waged large-scale war exercises, and that thus it is straining the state of military tension to an extreme point in the air, on the ground, and on the sea. Our side called the enemy side to account.

Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, said: On 27 July alone, the U.S. side staged aerial strike exercises more than eight times to attack us by mobilizing a total of more than 450 kinds of fighters. A number of formations consisting of combat fighter-bombers, pursuit planes and assault planes, including F-16s, FA-18s and A-6s, participated in this exercise from Kadena Base in Okinawa and Iwakuni Base on mainland Japan.

These fighters staged aerial war exercises, simulating a surprise strike against the depth of the northern half of our Republic, in cooperation with formations of fighter-bombers, assault planes and Airborne Warning and Control [AWACS] planes, including F-16s, F-4s, F-5s, A-37s and OA-10s that belong to the South Korean Air Force.

On 1 August, the U.S. side staged aerial war exercises by mobilizing a number of formations of FA-18 pursuit-assault planes in the air above areas in Sosan, Kongju, Wonju, Chechon, Chongup and Pyongchang. On 2 August, it flew many formations of C-123 transport planes above the Sangju area and staged a parachute exercise designed to swiftly infiltrate special-assault units into the depths of the northern half of the Republic in an emergency.

The total number of various fighters that the U.S. side mobilized in these war exercises reached about 1,000. Such war rackets by the U.S. side were perpetrated no less than 190 times from 1 to 19 August.

Such a situation in which several hundred fighters of various types suddenly flew above areas of South Korea in formation each day is unprecedented in recent years. In particular, F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers, which are capable of waging nuclear offensive strikes, participated in these war exercises and staged nuclear strike exercises by dropping mock nuclear bombs and assuming major objectives and the areas deep into the northern half of the Republic as their targets. This clearly shows how grave a danger of a nuclear war is being created on the Korean peninsula.

At the same time, the United States is drastically increasing its aggressive armed forces in South Korea. A battalion of F-16 fighter- bombers, which are equipped with ultra-modern nighttime navigation devices. has been deployed in a U.S. Air Force base in South Korea. Submarines and tanks have also been secretly brought into South Korea.

It is no secret that the United States is going to turn over $33 million worth of military operational equipment, including 120 F-18 ultramodern fighters and 21 Sparrow missiles to the South Korean Army and that the South Korean authorities are going to bring over $1.5 billion worth of weapons from the United States.

In addition to this, the South Korean puppets are planning to introduce a number of various military aircraft, submarines, and anti-aircraft control systems from England, France, and West Germany.

Because of the adventurous war provocation maneuvers of the United States, the situation has been rapidly aggravated, and the grave danger of war has emerged on the Korean peninsula as the reality.

At this very time, the U.S. side is perpetrating grave military provocations one after another in the Demilitarized Zone and on the seas.

At around 1957 and 2220 on 28 July, the South Korean puppets, successively on two occasions, committed the military provocation of infiltrating four combat vessels into our territorial waters west of the Ongjin Peninsula

and northwest of Changsan-kot of our country. A combat vessel of the puppet South Korean Navy that had left an area near Taechong Island at around 1950 that day arrived, at around 1957, at a sea zone 37 degrees 49 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and 125 degrees 45 minutes 40 seconds east longitude. At around 2107, this combat vessel infiltrated deep into our territorial waters, near an area 37 degrees 53 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and 124 degrees 52 minutes east longitude. Also at 2220 that day, three combat vessels of the South Korean Navy, in combat formations, infiltrated into our territorial waters of the West Sea and, at around 2240, infiltrated deep into our territorial waters, near an area 38 degrees 2 minutes 12 seconds north latitude and 124 degrees 45 minutes 30 seconds east longitude. Under these circumstances, we could not help but take appropriate self-defensive measures. When a patrol boat of our side rushed the scene, the South Korean puppet combat vessels hastily escaped southward at around 2255.

The South Korean puppets continued maritime infiltrations even in August. At around 0835 on 10 August, a group of three combat vessels of the puppet South Korean Navy, which came from an area near Paengnyong Island, infiltrated deep into our territorial waters west of Changsan-kot on the western coast of our country, and tried to kidnap peaceful fishermen who were catching fish. Prior to this, at around 1810 on 1 August, two combat vessels of the puppet South Korean Navy infiltrated into our territorial waters of the West Sea and, at around 1817, committed the military provocation of infiltrating deep into our territorial waters near an area 38 degrees 4 minutes 12 seconds north latitude and at 124 degrees and 25 minutes east longitude.

Provocations by the enemy have drastically increased not only in the seas but also in the DMZ, at the center of which is the military demarcation line [MDL]. At around 1540 on 31 July, the South Korean puppet forces committed the grave military provocation of bringing a tank into the DMZ, near an area southeast of MDL Marker No. 1110. From 28 to 31 July, not to speak of other times, when they brought cannons, machine guns, and automatic weapons into the DMZ on approximately 320 occasions. Moreover, under the preposterous pretext of repairing markers, on 4 and 5 August, they created the disturbance of sending numerous armed villains to a section between MDL Markers Nos. 1110 and 1122, which are under our side's control. While babbling about repairing markers under the opposing side's control, they successively sent numerous armed troops into the DMZ. They did so out of the wicked purpose of provoking a shocking incident by inciting us.

Military provocations by the U.S. side have continued even inside the Joint Security Area [JSA] in Panmunjom, a sensitive area. Since 23 July, inside the JSA, the U.S. side has committed approximately no fewer than 40 crimes, including the incitement and threatening of our side's security personnel and the deployment of automatic weapons at guardposts.

Using photographs, display materials, and videotape footage, our side's senior member proved that the enemy has recently increased forces of aggression on a large scale in South Korea, has endlessly conducted large-scale war exercises, and has committed grave military provocations, and pointed out how serious the prevailing situation is. After this, our side's senior member strongly protested and denounced the U.S. side's military buildup, war exercises, and military provocations as a flagrant violation of the preamble and paragraphs 6, 10, 12, 13d, and 15 of the Armistice Agreement and as an open challenge to our new reunification proposals and arms reduction proposal.

Our side's senior member strongly asked the U.S. side to take a responsible measure to immediately stop committing such crimes. The meeting is continuing.

No Tae-u's Meeting With U.S. Official Decried

SK1808083690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Commentary by station commentator Son Yong-il: "Absurd Remarks That Threaten Peace"]

[Text] According to reports, at the request of the commander of the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea, the traitor No Tae-u heard a report from him a few days ago on the so-called military situation in the Middle East. This is truly ridiculous. The South Korean puppets are nothing but dummies who have no real power because they are thoroughly subjugated to the U.S. imperialists not only militarily but also politically and economically. The fact that fellows of this nature heard a report from their rulers is a ridiculous episode like a servant receiving a report from his master. The puppets talked about someone else's request or report. This is sophistry designed to conceal their unseemly appearance as colonial running dogs or war servants. In reality, he heard instructions from his master. On this occasion, the puppet traitor begged his U.S. imperialist master to strengthen the U.S.-South Korean defense system and to fully operate the early warning system in preparation against the possibility of a multi-front war. This is a rash act designed to bring the situation to the brink of war by more thoroughly turning South Korea into a victim from the U.S. imperialists' war policy and is an unforgivable crime that gravely threatens peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

A multi-front war strategy that the U.S. imperialists have mapped out is an adventurous, aggressive war strategy by which, in case they provoke war in an area or country, they will expand it worldwide by provoking wars in various other areas or countries in the world at the same time. As everyone knows, the situation in the Gulf has been aggravated to the utmost. The U.S. imperialists are trying to gain the third party's profit by meddling in this dispute. They sent troops of aggression on a large scale to the Gulf, thus further aggravating the crisis. At such a time, the traitor No Tae- u talked about the possibility of

a multi-front war and begged his master to strengthen the defense system and to fully operate the early warning system. In this way, he openly exposed his vicious intention to provoke a new war on the Korean peninsula at the same time they provoke war in the Gulf.

Coinciding with the situation in the Gulf, ominous military moves are taking place in South Korea. On 3 August, the U.S. imperialists mobilized approximately 40 F-16 fighter-bombers, nuclear-equipped aircraft, of the Seventh U.S. Air Force, to conduct a nuclear shell dropping exercise simulating a surprise strike at the northern half of the Republic. On 2 August, the puppets mobilized several formations of transports to conduct a jump exercise designed to infiltrate commando troops into our side's area. No fewer than approximately 1,000 aircraft of various types conducted war exercise in the sky over the South Korean region for two days, on 1 and 2 August, to say nothing of other times.

War exercises are conducted on a larger scale as time goes by; military provocations take place more frequently; and the traitor No Tae-u personally appeared at the front line area and inspired war fever. This clearly shows how frantically the rascals are preparing for a war of northward invasion. Because of reckless maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique to provoke a new war, a tense situation has been promoted on the Korean peninsula in which a war may break out any time.

The pan-national rally recently took place on a grand scale on the northern half of the Republic with the attendance of many compatriots from home and abroad, and voices loudly resounded, calling for peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. At a time when mankind demands peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are further strengthening war maneuvers. This is the unforgivable crime of running counter to this demand. This also shows that the rascals are the disturbers of peace and war maniacs.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique are trying to find an excuse for provoking a new war and are waiting for an opportunity to provoke a new war. Approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea. Therefore, if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it will spread into a worldwide nuclear war. It is no accident that the conscientious people of the world express great concern over the constant danger of nuclear war. With heightened vigilance, all the Korean people are carefully watching the rascals' maneuvers to provoke a new war. The U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique must stop their adventurous military commotions to aggravate the situation and must act with discretion.

U.S., South Staging 'War Exercises' Daily

SK1908084790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on August 15 hurled formations of fighter-bombers, pursuit- assault planes and assault planes such as F-16, FA-18 and A- 6, which they had brought into South Korea from overseas bases, into the sky above an operational zone for an exercise aimed at a surprise attack on the objects on the coastal area and the ground in the northern half of the country, in cooperation with fighter-bombers, assault planes and AWACS [airborne warning and control system] planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce in South Korea and the puppet Airforce, according to military sources.

They had staged such exercises between 07:00 and 18:00 every day in the August 9-15 period with the mobilization of formations of F-16, F-86, A-37, OA-10 and other pirate planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet Airforce.

They let an E-3 early warning plane based in Kadena in Okinawa, Japan, make a repeated shuttle flight east and west in the sky above the area near the military demarcation line between 09:00 and 17:00 on August 15 for commanding aerial war exercises and conducting electronic reconnaissance.

The number of planes involved in aerial war exercises in the sky of South Korea from August 9 to 14 totalled 2,400.

The South Korean puppets brought many motorised infantry units, tank, armored vehicle and artillery units in the area near the military demarcation line on August 13 and 14 for a tactical exercise combining a mobile exercise and artillery firing for a surprise attack on the northern half of the country. On August 9, they staged a combined marine operation exercise for a surprise infiltration of "commandoes" into the coastal area of the northern half of the country in "case of emergency."

Further Reportage on Visit by Soviet Fleet

Deputy Commander Gives Address

SK1908091890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Speech by Vice-Admiral Anatoliy Oleynik, first deputy commander of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet, at a Wonsan city mass rally held to welcome the fleet; at the Kangwon provincial art troupe theater on the afternoon of 16 August—portions recorded]

[Text] Warmly congratulating the Korean people and officers and men of the Korean People's Army on the 45th anniversary of the liberation of their fatherland, Anatoliy Oleynik, first deputy commander of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet, said that friendly and cooperative relations between the Soviet Union and Korea have been

constantly strengthened and developed in conformity with the interests of the people of the two countries for the past 45 years. He continued:

[Begin recording in Russian with overvoice translation into Korean] The fraternal alliance between the USSR and the DPRK is legally guaranteed by the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance which reflects the aspirations of our two states in guaranteeing peace and security in Asia and the Far East along with the [words indistinct]. The USSR and the DPRK—which have attached preferential significance to the treaty as a great internationalist agreement—extended the validity period of the treaty in 1987.

Our visit to your country this time and today's meeting here in Korea tell us that our friendship is strengthening. The (?friendship) between Soviet marine soldiers and Korean marine soldiers and Wonsan citizens is verified by (?intimacy) and sincere feelings of the people of our two countries. [applause]

Comrades: Much activity against war is being waged in the international arena today, and our [words indistinct] on the road of alleviating and eliminating military confrontation and advancing toward peace. Our two countries have mutually supported the initiatives of the Soviet Union and the DPRK and their practical actions for the normalization of the military and political situations in Asia and the Pacific and, thus, have greatly contributed to this peaceful cause. [applause]

Along with this, the military and political situations in this part of the world prove that there are still many problems that should be resolved. This is proved, in reality, by the size of military exercises of the Armed Forces of the United States, South Korea, and Japan in this region and the offensive nature of their military exercises.

South Korea has not responded affirmatively to the DPRK's proposal for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone, and there are more than 45,000 U.S. troops equipped with nuclear weapons in the southern area of the Korean peninsula. Of course, to this fact [passage indistinct]. The Soviet Union, too, has constantly made efforts to prevent Asia and the Pacific from becoming a hotbed of tension and military confrontation by taking into consideration the interests of the countries in this region.

Today is precisely the time for us to struggle together for peace more resolutely than ever before. Socialist Korea's peace-loving policy for making the situation on the Korean peninsula sound and for achieving the peaceful and democratic reunification of the country has won invariable support from the people of the USSR.

The Soviet people treasure the relations of friendship and unity between the Soviet Union and Korea which have been forged by the joint struggle for [words indistinct], as well as our Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance. [applause]

Dear Korean friends: As all the Soviet people, we, soldiers of the Soviet Navy, too, will make all possible efforts to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Korea in conformity with the interest of the cause of peace and socialism of our two countries. [applause]

Like the Korean proverb, "A good neighbor close by is better than a brother far off," we highly value our relations and will always treasure them. Long live the invincible and fraternal friendship between the Soviet and Korean peoples, between the Soviet and Korean Armies, and between soldiers of the fleets of the two countries. [applause] [end recording]

Farewell News Conference Held

SK1908100890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1100 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Anatoliy Oleynik, first deputy commander of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet, held a press conference on 18 August prior to leaving Wonsan Port. The press conference was attended by reporters from KCNA, the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee, and the Korean People's Army newspaper; and accompanying Soviet reporters of the fleet. Anatoliy Oleynik answered questions raised by reporters.

[Begin recording] [Question] I understand while staying in our country you toured many places, including Pyongyang and Wonsan. What was the impression you got while visiting these cities?

[Answer] [recording in Russian fading into Korean translation] In the name of all members of our Red Flag Pacific Fleet and leading members of the Soviet Far East Maritime Region, I express thanks to respected Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il for having invited us to visit the DPRK. Our visit to your country this time was well timed with the 45th anniversary of national liberation of your country, and many brothers in the Soviet Union and Korea [words indistinct].

[Question] You are going to leave our country after your visit. Do you have anything to tell our people and soldiers of our People's Army, in particular, prior to leaving our country?

[Answer] [recording in Russian fading into Korean translation] Our visit was very short. In only four days we were unable to tour all areas of beautiful Korea. However, the most important impression that we got while staying in your country was that there are many genuine friends in this beautiful country. We could exchange common positions and views on various matters which arise between our two fleets and between the naval armed forces of our two countries. I believe that all matters will be resolved in conformity with interests of the peoples and armies of our two countries.

Our friendship was forged in the joint struggle against the Japanese militarists. Our friendship has been more

firmly strengthened in the course of socialist construction in the DPRK and the USSR. We have clearly come to realize this time the DPRK's stand in trying to reunify its fatherland peacefully. We are well aware of the fact that the reunification question of Korea is the supreme task of the Korean people. I think that the reunification of Korea should be achieved by the Korean people themselves.

When we visit Korea next time, we would like to visit a reunified socialist Korea. In conclusion, I sincerely wish your beautiful country (?prosperity) and the outstanding Korean people outstanding success. Thank you. [end recording]

Fleet Concludes Visit

SK1808103390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 18 (KCNA)—The flotilla of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet left Wonsan Port this afternoon amid the enthusiastic farewell of working people in Wonsan and soldiers of the Korean People's Army after its five-day official goodwill visit to Wonsan Port.

While staying in Korea, Vice-Admiral Anatoliy Oleynik, first deputy commander of the fleet, gave a party upon the conclusion of the flotilla's Korean visit and was interviewed by reporters.

A friendship gathering between working people in Wonsan and the Soviet seamen was held at the Songdowon seabeach resort and a performance of the song and dance ensemble of the fleet was given for the guests.

The members of the flotilla visited a KPA unit and went round the Wonsan disabled soldiers' plastic daily necessaries factory, Wonsan Institute of Art and the June 4 rolling stock complex.

Meanwhile, Admiral Kim Il-chol, commander of the KPA Navy, visited the large anti-submarine [destroyer with anti-submarine warfare capability] "Marshal Shaposhnikov", the flagship of the flotilla.

Worker's Party Hosts Reception for JSP Group

SK1908085090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] gave a reception at the Oknyu restaurant Saturday evening for the visiting friendship visiting group of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP].

Invited to the reception were the members of the friendship visiting group headed by Lower House member Taneaki Tanami, member of the Central Executive Committee and director of the information department of the JSP.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Choe Su-il, vice- chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea Yi Chol-sin, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Choe Chang-kol, secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged at the reception.

ROK-Japanese Military Cooperation Denounced

SK2008051690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 20 (KCNA)—A South Korean puppet Army officer began studying at the military academy of the "Self-Defence Ground Force" of Japan in mid-August, according to a report of the Japanese SANKEI SHIMBUN.

It was originally planned in the period of the "Fifth Republic", but put off for fear of the people's opposition. However, it has been carried into practice this time by the No Tae-u fascist "regime", the dyed-in-the-wool pro-American, pro-Japanese treacherous "regime".

The Japanese reactionaries are reportedly going to send soldiers of the "Self-Defence Forces" to the South Korean puppet military academy in the foreseeable future in the wake of the South Korean puppet Army officer's study in Japan.

The intensified military tieup between the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries is manipulated behind the scene by the U.S. imperialists; it is part of the criminal moves to round off a U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangular military alliance.

Japanese Reactionaries' Making 'Dangerous Moves'

SK2008052690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 20 (KCNA)—Japanese Cabinet ministers and Liberal Democratic dietmen officially "paid homage to the Yasukuni Shrine" on August 15, according to a report.

The "worshipping at the shrine" which has been made "an annual function" shows that the Japanese reactionaries have not yet given up the old dream of "the greater East Asia co- prosperity sphere" but are resorting to malicious criminal moves to spread the militarist and revanchist idea among people so as to gratify their wild ambition for reinvasion.

The "Yasukuni Shrine" is a symbol of the crimes of Japanese militarism, a place haunted by the departed souls of high-level war criminals including Tojo who

unleashed a war for continental aggression and slaughtered a great many Asian people.

The fact that Japanese Cabinet ministers and Liberal Democratic dietmen went in groups to "pay respects" to the departed souls of militarists at the "Yasukuni Shrine" which spreads the poison of revanchism bespeaks that the Japanese reactionaries are whetting the spiritual sword for overseas aggrandizement.

Moreover, in view of the fact that that day was the 45th anniversary of the defeat of Japanese imperialism, this collective official "visit" cannot be construed otherwise than a downright challenge to the Korean and other Asian people who fell victim to the Japanese imperialists' past aggression on Asia.

The Japanese reactionary ruling quarters have become all the more undisguised in their moves to create a spiritual infrastructure for their militarist reinvasion, describing the Japanese imperialists' war for continental aggression as "a sacred war," praising war criminals as "heroes," legalizing visits to the "Yasukuni Shrine," keeping "Hinomaru" (the sun flag) as the national flag and "Kimigayo" as the national anthem of Japan.

Such dangerous moves of the Japanese reactionaries naturally alert the Japanese and other Asian people.

PRC Goodwill Military Delegation To Visit

SK1908091590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0851 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—A goodwill military delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Comrade Colonel General Qin Jiwei, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, member of the State Council and minister of national defence of the PRC, will shortly pay an official friendship visit to our country at the invitation of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Publishing Firm Introduces Deng Xiaoping's Works

SK1808103090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 18 (KCNA)—The Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House has brought out a "Collection of Deng Xiaoping's Works" which contains main works selected from the "Collections of Deng Xiaoping's Works" published by the People's Publishing House of China.

20 works are carried in the collection in chronological order including important reports, speeches and talks made by Comrade Deng Xiaoping in the period of the anti-Japanese war and the liberation war of the Chinese people and in the period of the struggle to build a new China and strengthen and develop it after the victory of the revolution.

The works reflect the historical course along which the Chinese people have triumphantly advanced the Chinese revolution at different phases of the development of revolution smashing all hues of counter-revolutionary forces and overcoming the outdated, backward ideological trends under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

They contain in broad range revolutionary ideas, theories, strategic and tactical policies advanced in the military, political, economic, party building and other domains.

Meeting on Asia Peace, Korean Reunification Held

SK2008054890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0532 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 20 (KCNA)—A solidarity meeting for peace in Asia and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea was held at the People's Palace of Culture on August 19.

Speaking at the meeting, Choe Mun-son, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], said that the historical meetings and talks between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Chairwoman Mrs Takako Doi in Pyongyang in 1987 were a significant event in further strengthening and developing friendship, cooperation and solidarity between the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Japan Socialist Party (JSP).

The JSP has launched a powerful anti-nuke, anti-war, disarmament and peace movement, taking demilitarization, active neutrality, non-alliance as a cardinal line of the party while adhering to the independent stand in the past, and actively struggled in defence of the independent rights and vital interests of the working masses, he pointed out, and went on:

The JSP has made efforts to rectify the Liberal Democratic Party government's one-sided policy toward South Korea and unfriendly policy toward the DPRK and expressed active support and solidarity for the Korean people's cause of reunification.

The WPK will as ever continue to consolidate and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the JSP under the banner of independence, peace and friendship and make common efforts more closely with the JSP in the struggle for anti-war, anti-nuke, disarmament and peace.

Lower house member Taneaki Tanami, member of the Central Executive Committee and director of the Information Department of the JSP, who is heading the friendship visiting group of the JSP, spoke next.

Pointing to his several Korean visits, he said:

I saw with my own eyes the development of your country. All this was made by the strenuous efforts of the

popular masses with wisdom and strength under the leadership of respected President Kim Il-song.

Peace in Asia is linked to world peace and for peace in Asia, first of all, peace and stability on the Korean peninsula should be guaranteed. The struggle to ease the tensions and achieve peace on the Korean peninsula is a movement to achieve the reunification of Korea.

The Japan Socialist Party considers it should rouse international public opinion by taking the stand of clearly supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and strengthening the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the Japanese and Korean peoples.

The Japanese Government should stop unfriendly and hostile policy toward the DPRK and rectify one-sided policy toward South Korea to show introspection and apology in actual practice. And thus the Japan-Korea relations should be improved, friendly relations established and economic, cultural and personal exchanges promoted.

We demand that in particular the Japan Self-Defence Forces stop immediately involving in the military joint exercises with the United States and south Korea as the centre, and strongly oppose anti-peace policy.

The five-point policy for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea put forward by President Kim Il-song at the Supreme People's Assembly in May last and the package disarmament proposal of the government of the DPRK are the most reasonable and realistic ones to settle the Korean question in a peaceful way.

The Japan Socialist Party declares it will as ever invigorate the activities for the improvement of Japan-Korea relations and, to gain success here, conduct joint activities together with the Japanese people in cooperation with the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people.

A silk banner of the JSP Central Executive Committee to the WPK Central Committee was conveyed at the meeting.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

Resolution on Peace Adopted

SK2008055290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0543 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 20 (KCNA)—A resolution on jointly waging an anti-war, anti-nuke, peace struggle was adopted at a solidarity meeting for peace in Asia and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea which was held here on August 19.

It was confirmed that to remove the danger of war and guarantee peace in the Asian region, on the Korean peninsula in particular, and, at the same time, achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea is the most urgent task today, the resolution says.

It evinces the determination to further strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations between the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] and the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the friendship and solidarity between the Japanese and the Korean people on this basis and jointly wage the anti-war, anti-nuke, peace struggle in firm unity.

It also says a joint struggle will be waged vigorously to realize denuclearization, disarmament and peace in Asia, on the Korean peninsula.

In March, 1981 the JSP and the WPK adopted a joint declaration on creating a nuclear-free, peace zone in Northeast Asia and have jointly struggled up until now to carry it into effect amid support of broad segments of people, the resolution says, and stresses:

We declare that in the future, too, we will struggle in concert to further strengthen our solidarity in order to get nuclear weapons and military bases of foreign forces withdrawn from the Korean peninsula and Japan, oppose the joint military exercises of the United States, Japan and South Korea and defend peace and security in Asia.

We also decisively oppose division caused by the "two Koreas" plot and, hoping that Korea will be reunified at an early date on the basis of the three principles of independence, peace and great national unity, will vigorously struggle for it.

Noting that the August 15 pan-national rally marked an epochal occasion in the Korean people's reunification movement, the resolution expresses the conviction and expectation that a period of great changes for national reunification will be brought before long by the efforts of all the Koreans in the North, South and abroad.

Pointing out that President Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the first session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly held in May this year, advanced a new five-point policy of national reunification to carry the proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo into practice, it emphasizes that the JSP fully supports the Korean people in their struggle to put the most realistic and reasonable policy into effect.

We will make strenuous efforts to force the Japanese Government to refrain from facilitating the moves to freeze the division of Korea, renounce the one-sided policy in favor of South Korea and rectify the unfriendly attitude toward the DPRK and improve the Japan-DPRK relations from the stand of establishing truly good neighbourly relations of friendship, the resolution declares, stressing:

We present at the meeting express our determination to defend peace in Japan, Korea and the rest of Asia and help to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea under the banner of independence, amity, friendship, solidarity and unity.

SKNDF Members Helping Build Tongil Street

SK1908085290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 19 (KCNA)—Members of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) [SKNDF] including its chief Cho Il-min participated in assistance labour at the construction site of Tongil Street on August 18.

The builders warmly welcomed them with warm kindred feelings.

Cho Il-min met with reporters during a break. Giving his impressions of it, he said the construction of the street named "Tongil" (reunification) at a time when all the fellow countrymen are fighting vigorously to make the 1990s a decade of national reunification in accordance with the desire of our nation for reunification is a solemn warning to the home and foreign separatists.

He expressed the belief that the people in the North and the South would freely travel through this street to be completed in future, devoting their strength and wisdom together in the efforts for the prosperous future of the country.

South Korea

Further Reportage on Reaction to Mideast Crisis

Seoul To Close Kuwait Embassy

SK1808131390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1303 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government plans to take joint countermeasures with other nations for Iraq's call to withdraw foreign diplomatic missions in Kuwait, a Korean official said Saturday.

"The Iraqi Government has circulated a letter calling for the withdrawal of foreign diplomatic missions in Kuwait. We are studying various countermeasures in close consultations with other nations and taking into account our relations with Iraq and international practices," the official said. He said it would be natural for the government to take joint steps with other nations, since it had already joined the United Nations' economic sanctions against Iraq, supporting U.N. Resolutions Nos. 661 and 662.

In the letter circulated early this month, the Iraqi Government asked all 65 foreign diplomatic missions in Kuwait to close down their offices by Aug. 24, he said.

U.S. Supply Request Considered

SK2008002890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0016 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (YONHAP)—The United States has officially requested South Korea to render military supplies in connection with the Gulf crisis, a government official said Monday. He said inter-ministerial consultations were under way to decide whether to comply with the U.S. request or not.

"As far as I know, the U.S. Government officially asked our government on Thursday or Friday to send boats, uniforms and other military supplies, except for arms, for use by the nations involved in the Middle East conflict," the official said on condition of anonymity. He said the government would decide its stance after fully considering the safety of Koreans in the conflict-hit nations, Korea's economic relations with those countries, Korea-U.S. relations and the international rules and practices.

"If the U.S. request has been made simply to aid the armies of the neighboring nations involved in the conflict, there are some annoying elements the government has to consider in dealing with it," he said. Diplomatic observers here say the U.S. call is aimed at meeting the demand for military supplies in Saudi Arabia and other armies in the Middle East and the multi-national peacekeeping forces of the United Nations.

Ministry Denies Request Made

SK1908064890 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 19 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] In connection with the report that the United States asked our government to supply military materiel, Chong Ui-yong, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that "the United States has not asked us to do so, and the government has no plan to join in military sanctions against Iraq."

More Koreans Leave Gulf

SK2008044190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0427 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry said Monday that 609 of the 1,317 South Koreans in Iraq and Kuwait have left and 708 are still there.

"Among Koreans in Iraq, 100 pulled out and 612 remain, and among those in Kuwait, 509 pulled out and 96 remain," ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said. He said 296 Koreans, including 172 Hyundai construction workers and their families, arrived in Jordan from Kuwait on Sunday, and 105 Hyundai construction workers and their families left for Jordan on Monday morning.

A chartered Boeing 747 left Seoul for Amman on Monday morning to ferry home Koreans, while a DC-10 will leave for Jedda, Saudi Arabia, in the afternoon on the same mission. The planes will return at 4:50 P.M. on Tuesday and 6:20 A.M. on Wednesday, while a DC-10 that left for Jedda on Sunday is due back at 8:15 P.M. on Monday.

Efforts To Hold N-S High-Level Talks Continue

To Be Held 'as Scheduled'

SK1908015690 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Hong Song-chol, minister of the National Unification Board, has said that even though the grand national exchange and the pan-national rally were frustrated, the high-level North-South talks, which North and South Korea agreed on, will be held on 4 September in Seoul as scheduled.

Hong said this during a Korean Broadcasting System television program this morning. He also said that preparations are under way to ensure that the North-South High-Level Talks, which the prime ministers of North and South Korea will attend as senior delegates for the first time since division 45 years ago, will discuss admission into the United Nations, arms reduction, economic exchange, and other pending issues between North and South Korea, thus providing a new turning point in North-South relations.

Minister Hong went on to say: Even though the 15 August grand national exchange was frustrated, we were able to perceive the problems in the North-South exchange. If we are patient, not hasty, in our efforts, we will be able to reap fruits in the not too distant future. Minister Hong also said: As long as North Korea does not abandon its strategy of achieving reunification under communist terms, we cannot expect epochal development in North-South relations. But it is expected changes in Eastern Europe and the opening up of China and the Soviet Union will affect North Korea. Therefore, a favorable atmosphere will be promoted for the future North-South relations.

UNSC Letter Responds to North

SK1908063690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] In his recent letter sent to the UN Security Council [SC], Pak Kil-yon, permanent North Korean observer to the United Nations, hinted at the possibility of the frustration of the North-South High-Level Talks. It has been learned that the ROK Government has sent a letter to the UN Security Council to express our opinion on the subject.

A high-level government official concerned said that "in the letter to the UN Security Council, the government stressed that the high-level North-South talks are the most efficient means to peacefully resolve issues, and explained how the government is making efforts to realize the high-level North-South talks" and that "it is expected that our letter will be adopted as a document of the UN Security Council and will be distributed to the UN members."

It was learned that our letter, signed by Hyon Hong-chu, our permanent observer to the United Nations, said that we are planning to discuss the following issues in the high-level talks: the North and South not using force of arms; signing a nonaggression pact; replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement; and opening liaison offices in Seoul and Pyongyang, which President No Tae-u proposed during his speech on the anniversary of the 15 August liberation.

It was also learned that our letter let it be known that we are making efforts to promote a favorable atmosphere for the talks by significantly scaling down the "Ulchi-Focus" exercise, which we conduct in late August every year and that the letter also explained President No's 20 July proposal and its follow-up measures.

In the meantime, in the 10 August letter signed by Pak Kil-yon, North Korea insisted that "the military buildup of the ROK and the United States and continued provocations against one side in the dialogue cannot be construed otherwise than as an act that hampers the high-level North-South talks.

The North Korean letter was adopted as a document of the Security Council on 15 August and distributed to the UN members.

Seoul To Ask North To Remove Border Troops

SK2008012290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea will demand that North Korea withdraw combat forces from the border and sign a non-aggression pact and the nuclear safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) when the fourth review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opens in Geneva on Monday.

South Korea will answer the North's call for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, if repeated during the conference, by reiterating its position that the issue should be dealt with in a global context, a government official said Monday. The South Korean delegation will be led by Ambassador to Geneva Yi Sang-ok.

The conference, scheduled to last through Sept. 14, is open to 141 NPT-member nations, including South and North Korea.

"North Korea is likely to raise the issue of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, but few NPT members will pay attention to its argument," the official predicted. North Korea first proposed denuclearizing the peninsula and making it a peace zone in an international conference on Korea in Tokyo in August 1976, and repeated the call in June 1986 and July 1987. In 1988, North Korea submitted a motion on denuclearizing Northeast Asia to the third special U.N. session on arms control.

The official said the Seoul government is seeking progress in the conference concerning North Korea's joining the nuclear safeguards accord of the IAEA. IAEA Director-General Hans Blix said in June that North

Korea might sign the safeguards agreement by September, opening its nuclear facilities to international scrutiny.

In a meeting with South Korean Science and Technology Minister Chong Kun-mo, Blix said Pyongyang would send negotiators to Vienna around July 10 to discuss the accord. The negotiations did not result in any public agreement on signing the accord. North Korea joined the NPT in December 1985 but has not signed the agreement, to which subscribers are required to put their names within 18 months of signing the treaty. North Korea has said it would sign the agreement only if all U.S. troops and all nuclear arms were removed from the South.

The United States has countered with an unwavering refusal to improve ties with the communist northern half of the Korean peninsula until it signs the nuclear safeguards agreement and met other conditions needed to build confidence in the region.

Government Enforces Banning of DPRK Articles

Students Arrested

SK1808031990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0307 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The police have arrested six university students and booked 13 without physical detention on charges of violating the National Security Law, a police spokesman said Saturday.

They are charged with praising or inspiring North Korea by running articles written in North Korea in university publications, such as newspapers and magazines, the spokesman said. Police placed 56 others on the wanted list on the same charges, he said. The North Korean articles included excerpts of North Korean Leader Kim Il-song's speeches and the Worker's Party organ NODONG SINMUN, the spokesman said.

Police have been studying articles published by students in 21 universities, including Seoul National University, Yonsei University, Kyonghui University and Seoul City University, since the end of June, the spokesman said.

Courts List Forbidden Items

SK2008044790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0436 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean courts listed 529 publications as "aiding the cause of the enemy," that is, North Korea, in 1988 and 1989, sources at the prosecutor general's office said Monday.

The list, for internal circulation, is used in charging people under the National Security Law, which bans the publishing of, the owning of or in any way aiding the printing of anti-state materials benefiting North Korea, the sources said. During the two years, courts ruled 233 North Korean books and 281 pamphlets and mimeographs as "aiding the cause of the enemy," a phrase that connotes sedition. Most concerned North Korean leader Kim Il-song's "chuche" (self-reliance) ideology, praising and sympathizing with its principles, and included "fundamentals of social history of chuche theory" and "chuche theory's philosophical principles." Others were revolutionary materials calling for class struggle and revolt, such as a pamphlet recently distributed on campuses to mark the inauguration of "South Korea's Socialist Laborer's Alliance."

Police have intensified the search for illegal publications since late June, and scores of students from 21 schools have been detained for questioning. Prosecutors said they will continue to arrest anyone writing, translating, editing, publishing or selling listed works, but they have been told to get a search warrant before confiscating items not on the list and to refrain from conducting searches without an order from headquarters.

DLP Head Kim Yong-sam To Visit Canada, U.S.

SK1808025990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), will visit Canada and the United States from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6 to discuss matters of mutual concern with political leaders, a DLP spokesman said Saturday.

"Kim's visit to Canada and the United States has been under promotion, and it is now under consultation for him to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and U.S. President George Bush," Pak Hui-tae said. While in the United States, Kim will exchange opinions with government and parliamentary leaders on the Middle East conflict and U.S. trade pressure against South Korea, Pak added.

American Lemons Suspected of Excess Pesticides

SK2008094290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0928 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Health and Social Affairs Ministry has instructed the National Health Institute to test U.S. lemons for chemical residues.

Unsafe amounts of 2.4-D, a poisonous herbicide, were found on California lemons sold in Japan by a team from Yokohama National University. They measured 0.22 ppm [parts per million] to 0.1 ppm of 2.4-D. There is no limit on 2.4-D levels for lemons in either Korea or Japan, but the Japanese Government allows 0.2 ppm for rice. The ministry said steps will be taken to restrict imports of American lemons if they turn out to be containing over 0.2 ppm of 2.4-D.

Soviets To Host Conference on Arms Reduction

SK2008071590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (YONHAP)—Scholars and government officials from 15 Asia-Pacific countries will discuss arms reduction and tension-easing measures at a conference in Vladivostok on Sept. 4-6, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The conference, titled "Asian-Pacific Region: Dialogue, Peace, Cooperation," will include an opening address by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and discussions on arms control and ways to ease tension on the peninsula. Shevardnadze is expected to make an important announcement on Soviet policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences, which sponsors the Conference, has invited a group of South Koreans, including Rep. [Representative] Pak Chol-on of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, the architect of Seoul's northern policy. A similar group of North Koreans is expected to attend. Other South Korean participants will include Yi Si-yong, head of the Foreign Ministry's task force for special policies: Nam Dok-u, president of the Korea Traders Association: Kim Kyong-won, a former ambassador to the United States and president of the Institute of Social Sciences: Prof. [Professor] Chong Chong-uk of Seoul National University: and Kim Yong-hui, a managing director of CHUNGANG Daily News. North Korean participants are unknown.

The first conference was in October 1988 but South Koreans were not invited and North Korea sent Chin Chong-kuk. Other participants will be former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Prof. Robert A. Scalapino of the University of California, and former Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari.

Boris Yeltsin Visit 'Slated for Next Month'

SK1808000990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Two lawmakers of the ruling DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] Thursday exchanged verbal punches on Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Seoul.

Rep. [Representative] Hwang Pyong-tae, top aide to DLP leader Kim Yong-sam, insisted that Yeltsin's Seoul visit slated for next month would not be conducive to establishing ties between Seoul and Moscow because he is an archrival of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In reply to Hwang's remarks, Rep. Pak Chon-on, a nephew-in-law of President No Tae-u, rebuffed him depicting the Soviet maverick as a rising sun.

"When I stayed in Moscow, I came to know he is de facto No. 2 man in the Soviet Union and is supported strongly by his people," Pak voiced, saying "his visit would contribute to advancing ties between Seoul and Moscow."

Soviet Official Addresses Conference in Seoul

SK1808012690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Aug 90 p 2

[Excerpts of paper to be presented by Oleg Davydov of USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs to second-day session of international conference on "New Changes in International Order and Roles of South and North Korea" in Seoul on 18 August]

[Text] In recent years we have been witnessing positive trends towards the solution of different regional conflicts on the basis of the fruitful idea of national reconciliation.

The atmosphere of a new detente is prevailing in the relations between the superpowers. In this context, attention is shifting to the situation on the Korean peninsula where tensions still exist. In the past years, a Korean settlement was considered to be a problem of minor importance in the long list of urgent international regional problems. After the Korean War, the policies of the Soviet Union and the United States on the peninsula remained passive, as they were predetermined mostly by the desire of both sides to keep the balance of power and avoid fruitless competition.

No plan for positive settlement could be worked out as the two sides were distinctly divided into two rival camps and were not interested in achieving any compromise. Although the Soviet approach was not elaborated in a detailed doctrine or explicit concept, the main features of that policy can be summarized in some basic principles.

The Soviet approach in the previous period can be qualified first as "geo-political" because the Korean problem was viewed as one element of the worldwide competition between socialist and capitalist "camps" and this viewed through the prism of the superpowers' relations, and secondly "internationalist" as it presupposed unconditional and full support for the course and initiatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) on peninsular issues. With the advent of ideas of new political thinking, the policies of the Soviet Union in Asia and in particular on the Korean peninsula have undergone dramatic changes.

The program laid down by President Mikhail Gorbachev in the city of Krasnoyarsk signifies a transition from a strategy which emphasized the division of Asia into two camps opposing each other to a concept of the constructive political and economic presence of the Soviet Union in the Pacific basin and its fuller contribution to regional cooperation and stability. The Krasnoyarsk platform gave momentum to a reassessment of the Soviet attitude towards South Korea.

Today, the Soviet Union recognizes the Republic of Korea as an essential and important element in the Far Eastern balance of power and the political and economic situation in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. Positive changes in the USSR-ROK relations, if supplemented by constructive contacts between South and North Korea

and real dialogue between the Soviet Union, the United States and Japan on the problems of security and cooperation in the Northeast Asia, could entail new comprehension by Moscow of the strategic realities on the Korean peninsula and around it.

I mean the estimation of the character and the scale of the security challenges to the Soviet Union, triangular relations between Seoul, Tokyo and Washington, the American military presence on the peninsula and the future orientation of the Soviet-North Korean alliance relations. The recent summit meeting between President Gorbachev and President No Tae-u in San Francisco opened the way for the final normalization of relations and the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. But the question arises: Will it be the final act in the process of the Soviet-South Korean rapprochement or the starting point for a new take-off and more active cooperation between Moscow and Seoul?

I suppose that prior to the establishment of diplomatic ties the two sides should achieve mutual understanding on what they expect from the forthcoming stage of bilateral relations and elaborate some constructive ideas in order to provide for their progressive development. What is important to realize is that Soviet-South Korean relations shouldn't advance in a way that might endanger the existing balance on the Korean peninsula or damage the relations of the two countries with their respective allies and traditional partners. A more active Soviet policy towards South Korea can not be interpreted as an attempt to undermine the alliance between Seoul and Washington, or to compete either with the United States or with any other power for influence in South Korea.

I proceed from the assumption that durability in relations and close coordination between Seoul and Washington is in the interests of the Soviet Union in so far as it enhances the stability and the predictability of the policies of the ROK. An important element of the Soviet policies on the Korean peninsula is the structuring of friendly ties with the DPRK. Therefore, Soviet-South Korean cooperation should not become the source of mistrust or alienation in Moscow's relations with Pyongyang, or of a growing isolation of that country in the region. Moreover, the future normalization between the USSR and ROK must be supplemented by substantial and effective steps with respect to Pyongyang so that North Koreans can feel they will receive real gains from Soviet-South Korean cooperation.

Direct Phone Link With USSR To Open in Oct

SK1808052490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union will open four direct telephone lines by the end of October, the Communications Ministry said Saturday.

A ministry spokesman said Korean Communications Minister Yi U-chae exchanged a memorandum of agreement with Soviet Vice Communications Minister G.G. Kudryavtsev on Friday in Moscow and the two discussed opening EMS [expansion unknown]-speed post and intelpost services between the two countries in the near future.

Two of the ISD (international subscriber dialing) lines will be for inbound calls and two for outbound. Calls to and from the Soviet Union are currently relayed through Britain, Italy or Greece, with part of the charge going to the connecting countries.

Yi told Kudryavtsev that Korea will give full support to the Soviet Union's telecommunications modernization project, and the Soviet vice minister promised that his government will open the project to Korean companies, he said. They discussed Korean participation in construction of a trans-Siberian fiber optic cable network and vowed to cooperate for its successful completion. They also agreed to hold regular working-level meetings to strengthen cooperative relations, the spokesman said.

Seoul, Moscow To Discuss Resource Development

SK1808002090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] The government will dispatch a delegation to the Soviet Union Aug. 18-Sept. 3 to discuss ways of promoting cooperation in the field of resources, the Ministry of Energy and Resources said yesterday.

The 11-member delegation, headed by Yi Won, chief of the ministry's Resources Development Office, includes officials from government-invested companies and top corporate executives. While there, the delegates will meet with Soviet officials and discuss 11 projects suggested by the Soviet Union during a visit by a Korean economic mission to Moscow earlier this month, a ministry official said. The economic mission was led by Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs. They will also discuss the idea of developing gas fields and transporting gas from the Soviet Union to Korea through a pipeline proposed by Korean businesses.

Other agenda items will include expansion of imports of crude oil, gas, coal and other energy resources, and development of resources in the Soviet Far East, including Siberia, the official said. The second meeting of the Korea-Soviet Union Economic Cooperation Committee will be held in Seoul next month.

Statistics at the ministry showed that Korea imported $86.6 million worth of bituminous coal and other resources in 1989. The figure accounted for 22.1 percent of the total imports from Moscow last year. This year, the nation will import 30 tons of enriched uranium worth $18 million from the Soviet Union under a long-term contract.

China Fails To Invite No Tae-u to Asiad Games

SK1808071390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Hong Kong, Aug. 18 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u of South Korea is not among Asian leaders invited to the opening ceremony of the Beijing Asiad, Secretary-General of the Chinese Olympic Committee Wei Jizhong said Friday.

Wei, visiting Hong Kong along with Zhang Baifa, vice mayor of Beijing, who concurrently serves as vice chairman of the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee, told a news conference that five to seven Asian leaders are expected to accept the invitation. The regulations of the Olympic Council of Asia prohibit Asian Games organizers from inviting political organizations, Wei said. He said Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu was invited in his capacity as a former chairman of the Asia Softball Tennis Federation, but did not explain why No, a former head of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, was excluded.

China and South Korea lack diplomatic relations.

China Lists Technology Cooperation Projects

SK1808002990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] China has offered south Korea a list of suggested projects for technology cooperation, raising hopes for resuming scientific exchanges cut off since the suppression of the pro-democracy movement at Tiananmen Square last summer, the Science and Technology Ministry said yesterday.

Yi Chong-won, head of the ministry's Research Coordination Office, led a five-member team to the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Affiliate Institutes July 23-Aug. 4. The academy, which has more than 100 organizations under its wing in Beijing and Shanghai, presented a list of projects for bilateral cooperation to the team, a ministry spokesman said. He did not give details, but said the list ranges from chemistry and chemical engineering to machinery, new materials and optical science.

Amorphous alloy production know-how, turbo molecular pump, ion pump, and scaling electron microscope, are areas in which China excels Korea, he said. Development of a turbo molecular pump, which uses a turbine for air suction, is only at an infant stage in Korea while China is already exporting the pumps to Japan in small quantities, he said. Choe Chu, a senior researcher at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology and a team member, said Korea will have to study the feasibility of the proposed projects but the outlook is optimistic. (Yonhap)

Vietnamese Economic Delegation Expected in Sep

SK2008024690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (YONHAP)—A Vietnamese delegation will visit South Korea in September to discuss bilateral economic cooperation, a spokesman for the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) said Monday.

He said the six-member Vietnamese delegation, including ranking government officials, will take part in a seminar on Korea-Vietnam economic cooperation sponsored by Yonsei University's Institute of East and West Studies on Sept. 24-30. The Vietnamese, led by Doan Ngoc Bong [spelling as received], secretary-general of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will brief Korean businessmen on the conditions and procedures for investing in their nation, he said. It will be the first Vietnamese economic team to visit Korea since cessation of the Vietnam war in 1975. Korea and Vietnam have no diplomatic ties.

Kotra will propose the establishment of a trade office in Vietnam, and expects to send an economic delegation headed by Yi Son-ki, president of the state-run corporation, to Vietnam by the end of the year, depending on the results of the negotiations, he said. Hyundai Business Group is seeking to form a consortium with 10 small- and medium-sized companies to build a factory in Ho Chi Minh City, and Lucky-Goldstar Business Group is interested in mining development, he said. Kolon is planning to import crude oil from Vietnam, and Samsung is considering participation in Vietnam's seven-year development plan, he added.

* Government Plans To Control Conglomerates

902C0262 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 28 Jun 90 p 9

[Article by reporter Pang Chun-sik]

[Text] The financial community is tense from the recently announced government policy on the "specialization of domestic business groups."

The specialization of business groups is a somewhat shocking idea. The government came to the conclusion that domestic conglomerates not only did not grow to be worldwide first-class businesses but also their international competitive power has continuously declined by managing various kinds of loose businesses, rather than concentrating on several major businesses representing their business lines. The government will therefore regulate their businesses by identifying several specialties for each conglomerate.

Although similar ideas have been studied on several occasions in the past, they have never been implemented because of two major reasons: one is that the idea of specialization of conglomerates, which is in violation of the spirit of business self-regulation, has been criticized as being counter to the current democratization trend in the

overall economic and social environment; and the other is that the government has been ignoring the practical problems of conglomerates such as having to rapidly change their businesses into those of high technology areas in order to cope with the rapidly changing business environment.

The revived discussion of the specialization of conglomerates draws attention in two respects; the conglomerates' loose management is perceived to have reached a dangerous level; and the new policy will be carried out as part of the government's strong intention to "tighten the conglomerates' management" disclosed in the 8 May announcement of a new real estate control policy.

A detailed plan on the method and format of the specialization efforts has not yet been disclosed. Among the financial circles, however, the plan is being discussed in detail and conglomerates are struggling to prepare responses.

The following is known so far: From discussions within the relevant ministries headed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, it was decided that the specialization policy will surface as early as early July in order to overcome the business crisis attributed to excessive concentration of businesses on conglomerates and to provide the people with a creditable image of the conglomerates.

There is a convincing rumor that the government's decision on specialization was triggered by the second generation of the founders of conglomerates.

That is, while the conglomerates' second generation is well educated, mostly in the United States and Japan, they are not knowledgeable about business management because of their comfortable upbringing and tendency to be dependent. Thus, the function of the secretariat and business planning offices has been reinforced to such an extent that they become obstacles to the professional management system and the independent financial system of subsidiary companies.

The government seems to think that the influence on the economic crisis of the second generation of conglomerates is not negligible; since they, surrounded by several brains, have spent their energy in purchasing real estate, rather than in developing technology.

It is legitimate to judge that the recent meeting of the U.S. or Japan-trained second generation successors of Samsung, Ssangyong, Hyosung, and Kumho, was to discuss ways to deal with the government's extraordinary concern about them, contrary to the alleged purpose of complaining about the lack of communication channels with senior members of the National Federation of Businessmen or the government's recently announced real estate policy.

In fact, the 10 May announcement of the 10 biggest conglomerates to sell their real estate was made after it was made known that a high-ranking government official disclosed the government's threatening intention to disintegrate two conglomerates and to let the owners run only the major business line while professional businessmen would run the remaining businesses. It is quite convincing if we relate the discussion of the specialization of conglomerates to the annoncement on real estate.

The two troubled conglomerates, L and H groups, are typical of those run by family members of the groups' heads.

Some financial circle insiders insist that the government has already started the specialization efforts since the announcement of the 10 conglomerates to sell their real estate was made. Some of the five-point resolutions included in the announcemment are as follows: The future investment will be made to improve the competitive edge of the mainline business or it will be made in the futuristic technology development as the highest priority, thus clearing their hands from running small and medium-size businesses. Industries should realize their public responsibility for our society, and thus should continue their efforts to make their companies publicly owned and to promote management by professional businessmen by realizing that business should be publicly owned from a societal point of view. The resolution announcement is known to be developed jointly by the Chongwade [presidential office], the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Korean Federation of Businessmen, almost independently from the opinion of the financial community.

In order to continuously promote the five resolutions declared in the announcement, the Korean Federation of Businessmen established a special committee to deal with various problems of the industries. It is likely that the position of the financial community on the specialization of conglomerates will be reviewed by this committee.

There is no clear indication of what organizational form this movement will be based on in the event that the specialization of conglomerates is put into early practice. The financial community insiders, however, predict that the government is referring to the three successful forms of business.

The three exemplary cases are: the Kia Group, which has settled down to be the automobile specialist by separating the owner from the management; the Sammi Group, whose founder's second generation was successful in the area of special steel and iron; and the Tongyang Group, which is being changed into a financial specialist by the founder's son-in-law.

Although there is a possibility that such a plan could end up only as an academic discussion, there is an increasing people's voice saying that this is the right time to induce a fair competition among industries, while correcting the maldistribution of wealth to a number of conglomerates.

It might sound like the idea of specialization of conglomerates is counter to the trend of economic democratization. It is pointed out, on the other hand, that this is a true economic democratization which is also beneficial to the conglomerates in the long run.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Reportage Continues on Situation in Gulf Area

No Decision on Saudi Request

BK1808075690 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0309 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Saudi Arabia's request for Malaysia to send troops to help defend the kingdom against a possible attack by Iraq will be referred to the cabinet for consideration, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has said. He said the government had so far not made any decision on the request.

Shaik Abdul Aziz, a special envoy of King Fahd, conveyed the Saudi monarch's request to the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong (the Malaysian King) Sultan Azlan Shah on Thursday [16 August].

"The request of the Saudi King was conveyed to the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong. When I receive (the request), I will have it discussed by the cabinet for a decision," he told reporters.

At a dialogue earlier with senior government officers, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia did not wish to take sides in the Gulf crisis but said he understood the plight Saudi Arabia was in.

"We do not side any country. Our position is that we are with Islam," he said. He said Iraq and Iran had also requested Malaysia's support when they were at war but Malaysia did not want to support any war between Muslims, he added.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia might emulate the position Saudi Arabia had adopted if it faced a similar threat.

Saying that Malaysia sympathised with Saudi Arabia, he said even if Malaysia was prepared to send its troops to the kingdom, the strength of Malaysia's forces would not be comparable to the Iraqi military which had 1 million soldiers.

The prime minister said he felt that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and all the Arab states should resolve any differences among themselves.

Officers' Return Called For

BK1808081490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0700 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Penang, Aug 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said it is only proper that the United Nations arrange for the return of 15 Malaysian military officers said to be "trapped" in Iraq because of the latest crisis in the Gulf area.

He told reporters in this northwestern Penang state that if the U.N. declares that the Iran-Iraq war has ended, those officers now serving with the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) have, in principle, completed their tour of duty and should be allowed home.

He was commenting on a report by a London-based newspaper "THE EUROPEAN" that 200 military officers including Malaysians with UNIIMOG were trapped because of the latest crisis and not allowed to leave Iraq.

Tengku Rithauddeen said the government, on its part, would help the officers get out of their predicament but it had not received any official report on the matter yet.

Kuwait's Proxy Role Explained

BK1808155290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 18 (AFP)—Iraq's Ambassador here said saturday that Baghdad invaded Kuwait to eliminate the emirate's role as a proxy of the United States and Israel in a plot to "neutralise" Iraq, BERNAMA News Agency reported.

Hisham Fakri al-Tabaqjali said that when the Iran-Iraq war ended, the United States and Israel realised the need to "neutralise" Iraq, which had remained powerful militarily.

"The Western media then started a campaign to subdue Iraq politically and economically," the envoy told academics at the Universiti Malaya.

Because of its large Western investments and a historical territorial dispute with Iraq, Kuwait became part of the U.S.-Israel plot, he said.

He said Kuwait's role became clear when it lowered oil prices and increased production quotas knowing that Iraq, which was trying to rebuild its wrecked economy, had depended on oil as it main source of income.

Mr. al Tabaqjali said the United States was using the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as an excuse to remain permanently in Saudi Arabia and that Washington's aim was to "reshape the Arab region to benefit Israel."

He said Iraq had no intention to invade Saudi Arabia and there was no need therefore for the U.S. military build-up along the Iraqi-Saudi border. "All this sudden show of love for the Arabs, I find very surprising," he said.

Malaysians To Leave Iraq

BK1908090090 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq is allowing Malaysian passport holders to freely leave Kuwait and Baghdad for Amman. The minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said

the clearance covers members of the Malaysian diplomatic corps in Baghdad as well. The Iraqi Government assurance was (?relayed) to the Foreign Ministry—Wisma Putra—in Kuala Lumpur by the Malaysian ambassador to Iraq, Mr. K. Nadarajah, at midnight yesterday.

Datuk Abu Hassan told newsmen in Kuala Lumpur that the Iraqi first deputy prime minister, Taha Yasin Ramadan, gave a similar assurance to Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed over a telephone conservation last Monday. He said the Royal Jordanian Airlines airbus would fly back all Malaysians evacuated from Kuwait and Iraq by the end of this month from Amman. The government will bear the expenses.

The minister said the first batch of 65 Malaysians and four foreigners including a Singaporean evacuated from Kuwait last Thursday left Baghdad in two buses yesterday evening headed for Amman. They are expected in Amman at about 3 pm Malaysian time after a 12-hour journey covering 1,600 km. Another 90 Malaysians and foreigners who landed in Kuwait on a British Airways flight were taken to Baghdad in three buses.

Datuk Abu Hassan said Malaysian embassies in Riyadh and other West Asian countries reported that the situation there was normal.

Foreigners Helped To Evacuate

BK2008082190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 20 (AFP)—A Filipina, two Singaporeans and an Indonesian joined 65 Malaysians evacuated by the Malaysian Embassy in Iraq to Amman, Jordan, the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The group arrived safely in Amman on Sunday after crossing the Jordanian-Iraqi border in two buses and are expected to be joined later this week by a second batch of 62 Malaysians and 28 foreigners.

Officials said that the 62 Malaysians and 28 foreigners, evacuated from Kuwait by the Malaysian Embassy there, arrived in Baghdad on Sunday and would leave for Amman as soon as the Malaysian Embassy in Baghdad was able to process their travel documents.

The foreigners in the second batch are all related to Malaysians. They comprise 13 Britons, seven Indians, four Singaporeans, two Thais, an Egyptian and an American.

Image of Islam Said Tarnished

BK1708132190 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0715 Aug GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The dispute between Arab nations in West Asia now has affected the image of Islam among non-Muslims the world over, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Friday.

The Gulf crisis, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait recently, also undid all the good things people have heard of Islam, he added. The confidence of non-Muslims towards Islam would wane on seeing the actions taken by Muslims against fellow Muslims in West Asia, he said.

He added: "They will not believe (the good things said about Islam) and they will say, look, they are brothers in Islam but they are so cruel to invade without warning... without attempting to hold talks to resolve problems."

Mahathir, who was speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for an Islamic missionary centre in Paroi, about 80 km south of here, asked whether such action could raise the image of Islam, strengthen Islamic missions and consolidate the world's good impression of Islam.

He said whatever Iraq and Kuwait claimed in the crisis, military invasion by one Muslim country of another should be avoided and all problems among Muslims should be resolved through negotiations.

He expressed anxiety over the possibility of sacred places like Mecca and Medina being violated should there be war.

Citing the attack on the Masjidil Haram (Grand Mosque) several years ago by Muslims themselves, he said it would not come as a surprise if a military attack took place and bombs are dropped on Mecca and Medina simply because of political differences among Muslims.

"This is not a good example that can be emulated. It is an action which has an adverse effect on Islam and also on Muslims." he added.

Mahathir Thanks U.S. for 'Fair Decision'

BK1708162590 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The GSP status given by the United States to Malaysia has benefitted thousands of workers and the national income. The prime minister said this during a news conference in Seremban.

[Begin recording in progress] [Mahathir] ...very thankful for the fair decision whose results will protect our workers from unemployment. Now we will not face any problem of trying to find other avenues to resolve the unemployment that would have occured. I thank the United States Government.

In fact, we have not suppressed any worker here. We are protecting their interest. This does not mean that workers can strike as they wish. We know of certain countries where workers are constantly striking. Those countries have now become less progressive. For example, we know that workers in Australia are only interested in staging strikes. The Australian economic performance is now at its worst level. When a country's economy is bad, the victims will definitely be the

workers. That is why we have given our workers the right to take industrial action in our country. But such rights should be used for good causes. Because we have given a good explanation, I believe the U.S. authorities did not rescind Malaysia's GSP status. American investors have also assisted us by explaning the real situation concerning our labor organizations. [end recording]

Minister Says Foreigners Can Buy Telekom Shares

BK1808091490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0800 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The government has decided to sell a portion of the equity of the privatized telecoms company, Syarikat Telekom Malaysia, to foreign investors, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Friday.

He said the shares would be sold at a price higher than what Malaysians will have to pay.

The percentage of the shares to be allocated for the foreigners and the selling price would be determined by the Finance Ministry, he said at the launching of a new logo for the company.

Ghafar told reporters later that the percentage of the shares and the sale price for foreigners would be announced when Telekom Malaysia was to be listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister S. Samy Vellu announced recently that the cabinet had decided to sell 100 million shares or five percent of the total two billion shares to the staff of Telekom Malaysia.

He had also said that 15 percent of the equity would be sold to Permodalan Nasional Berhad (a state-owned fund manager), a Bumiputera (ethnic malay) financial institutions and the public.

The remaining 80 percent would be held by the government.

Ghafar said that since it was corporatised in 1987, the profits of Telekom Malaysia rose from M$4.9 million (US$1=M$2.7) in that year to M$180.4 million in 1988 and to more than M$360 million last year.

He also said that Telekom Malaysia now had almost 1.4 million clients, which reflected a ratio of eight persons for every 100 members of the population.

The annual increase in the demand for telephones was 17.4 percent.

State Official Cited on Singapore Army Intrusion

BK1908131890 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The Johor state authorities are aware of reports concerning intrusions into the state by certain members of the Singapore Armed Forces. The reports indicate that some of the republic's armed forces personnel entered the country by posing as civilians.

Johor State Secretary Datuk Haji Abdul Rahim Ramli said the state government is taking appropriate measures to tighten the outflow of important government information on recreation parks, paths for mountain-climbers and the sale of property.

Cabinet To Discuss Intrusion

BK2008094890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Cabinet will discuss allegations that Singapore's security forces had encroached in Johor during its meeting on Wednesday. Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said the incident is not serious and could be settled on a friendly basis.

He was speaking to reporters after officiating the 4th national science and technology week in Kuala Lumpur today. [passage omitted]

Singapore

Minister Goh on Regional Stability, Gulf Crisis

BK1808152090 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The first deputy prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong said regional stability will be enhanced if Singapore cooperates actively with its neighbors in all fields. He said countries in the region can increase each other's security to economic links and regular defense training and exercises.

Mr. Goh, who is also the defense minister, was speaking at the commissioning ceremony of three missiles Corvettes at the Brani Naval Base today. Mr. Goh pointed out that all countries must be prepared for unexpected threats and crises. He said the difference between Singapore and most other countries is that Singapore speaks frequently and publicly about defense and security. Mr. Goh said it is because Singaporeans must be reminded of the importance of national service regularly. He said Singapore has a military force large enough to take care of itself. Mr.Goh said when Singapore can defend itself, there is the need to contribute to regional stability.

Turning to the Gulf crisis, Mr.Goh said the situation is more than a local conflict between different Arab states. He said the war has widened [word indistinct] and will affect everybody. Mr. Goh said world economy is very much dependent on prices of oil. The Gulf states, which is the exporter of the world's oil supply, and Saudi Arabia alone accounts for nearly nine percent of it. Mr. Goh said Western and Arab armed forces dispatched to the Gulf because of consequences arising from one Gulf state controlling [words indistinct] from reaching its oil. He said many countries condemned the invasion in

order to uphold the principles of the U.N. Charter and also to protect their own vital interest.

Cambodia

'Friendly Relations' With U.S., PRC Urged

BK2008062490 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0411 GMT 20 Aug 90

["About Sihanouk's Reaction to U.S. Policy Change on Cambodia"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 August (SPK)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, has in a recent statement distributed to newsmen in Beijing once again criticized the United States policy shift toward Cambodia and recalled the bitter experiences of U.S. involvement in the Indochina war about 20 years ago. Why did Samdech Sihanouk call it "a very grave injustice" and lose his temper when the United States decided to drop its recognition of his coalition and open talks with Vietnam on the Cambodian issue? What is behind Samdech's attempt to set more conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict and recall the bitter experiences of U.S. involvement in the Indochina war during the 1970's?

While the Cambodian people and broad sections of the world public warmly applauded the positive approach of the present U.S. Administration, China made no bones about its military supplies to the Khmer Rouge, and the samdech himself, well known for his mercurial moods, kept rehashing the Polpotist Khmer Rouge's language against any efforts or measures aimed at preventing the recurrence of genocidal practices.

In so doing, Samdech Sihanouk couldn't have the courage to break with Khmer Rouge, but let himself act as a subservient spokesman for them. He made known his role when he admitted at "Sereipheap-ville" (by which he meant his "liberated zone") in February that China—the coalition's military backer—"will not allow me or Son Sann to try to get rid of the Khmer Rouge," adding that he was a "powerless leader.

Therefore, it is no wonder that Samdech Sihanouk described the U.S. move as "a very grave injustice" suggesting that it would be very harmful to the prestige of his coalition. He fears a discontiuation of aid to his and Son Sann's forces and any change in U.S. policy toward Cambodia.

The fact is that the two groups are colluding closely with the Khmer Rouge in the so-called "resistance" forces which are attempting to retake Cambodia by military means.

Reality has confirmed reports that American aid supplies intended for Sihanouk's and Son Sann's forces have ended up in the hands of the Khmer Rouge and that there has been increasing military cooperation among the three opposition factions. Remarking on this incident American Democratic Senator John Kerry was quoted by NEWSWEEK as saying in July 1990 that "the tragedy of our policy is that the Khmer Rouge always remain the primary beneficiaries."

This is why Samdech Sihanouk, who also represents the Khmer Rouge, has no other choice but to become indignant when the United States announced its policy of opposing the return to power by the Polpotist gang universally condemned for the death of millions of Cambodians under its reign of terror in Cambodia between April 1975 and the end of 1978. Sihanouk was angry at not only the United States but also other countries for adopting the new U.S. policy toward the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition of Democratic Kampuchea.

The Cambodian people have experienced so many sufferings provoked by the war and the consequences of the Polpotists' genocidal policy. Fifteen years ago when the Polpotist Khmer Rouge came to power (17 April 1975), they drove the population of cities and provinces toward concentration camps and then created the "killing fields" causing the death of three million people.

During the last decade, the U.S. Administration annually provided the opposition factions with 15 million dollars (not counting the $100-million annual aid given by China) and 10 other million dollars through NGO [non-governmental organizations] channels as aid to Cambodian refugees in the camps and inside the country. However, the U.S. Administration recently came up with a policy reversal on Cambodia.

And how about the Khmer Rouge? They provoke civil war against the peaceful life of more than seven million inhabitants in the interior of the country and threaten the security of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians in refugee camps at the Cambodian-Thai border. But the Cambodian people certainly can forget this chapter.

Better still, the State of Cambodia has made several concessions in order to achieve national reconciliation, despite the fact that the tripartite coalition continues to perpetrate their activities of sabotage against the Cambodian people's rebirth.

The State of Cambodia always keeps the door open to all Cambodians, including the Polpotists, so that they can return to the national fold, with the exception of the Polpotist ringleaders who personally directed the practice of genocide.

Why does Samdech Sihanouk always cling to the Pol Pot clique and still set conditions for the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict? He is doing exactly what the Khmer Rouge want to do: trying to intensify the war and bring back the nightmares of the past in order to prevent the Cambodian and U.S. peoples from holding out their hands to each other during direct negotiations between the Phnom Penh and Washington leaders.

The general trend in the world is toward peace and detente. Time is therefore ripe for conflicting parties to get closer to each other and to settle their problems through negotiations.

The Cambodian people wish to establish friendly relations not only with the U.S. people, but also with the Chinese and other peoples, regardless of their political convictions. Having suffered so much from the war and the policy of genocide, they fervently aspire for peace in order to rebuild their country.

We call on all countries, including the United States and China, and all peace- and justice-loving forces the world over to contribute to the process of national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia, through free, democratic, and fair general elections, so that the Cambodian people can enjoy a peaceful existence free from the menace of genocide.

Visit of Japanese Diplomat Imagawa Reported

Talks With Tie Banh 15 Aug

BK1908135790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Comrade General Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister, held talks at the 13 October Guesthouse of the Defense Ministry on 15 August with Mr. Yukio Imagawa, official attached to the Japanese Embassy in Thailand, who was on a fact-finding visit to Cambodia.

On that occasion, Comrade General Tie Banh spoke about the military situation following the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops, by confirming that after the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops, the three Cambodian groups launched a large-scale offensive in an attempt to seize various important positions, particularly various provinces in the western part of the country. Comrade General Tie Banh also stressed the defeats suffered by the Cambodian reactionaries in the past dry season and the efforts made by our Armed Forces, in cooperation with the people, to defend the national achievements and social order.

Mr. Yukio Imagawa expressed his joy over his visit to the State of Cambodia, which has enabled him to see the development in Cambodia with his own eyes. He also expressed profound thanks to the Cambodian party, government, and people, particularly the Cambodian Foreign Ministry, for assisting in his activities during the visit.

Received by Chea Sim 18 Aug

BK2008062590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] On the morning of 18 August at the office of the National Assembly, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, received Imagawa, Japanese official attached to the Japanese Embassy in Thailand, who paid him a courtesy call and was on a fact-finding mission to understand the activities of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly.

During the talks, Comrade Chea Sim briefed the guest on the development of the nation as well as the past activities of the National Assembly, particularly the success of the recent Assembly session. Comrade Chea Sim also talked about the State of Cambodia's goodwill to quickly solve the conflict in Cambodia. The comrade highly appreciated the visit by the Japanese diplomat who wants to find out the real situation in Cambodia.

Replying, Imagawa profoundly thanked the State of Cambodia's leadership for providing facilities for his visit to Cambodia. He was impressed by the development of the State of Cambodia in the past 11 years. In particular, he has seen the peaceful life of the Cambodian people during his trip to a number of provinces and cities, such as Kompong Cham, Battambang, and Kompong Som. Imagawa expressed the hope and belief that although the two countries do not have diplomatic relations, in the future they will move toward good relations to rebuild Cambodia.

Further on Imagawa's Visit

BK2008131790 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1111 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 20—Chea Sim, chairman of both the National Assembly and the Front National Council, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, received in Phnom Penh Saturday on separate occasions Yukio Imagawa, a high-ranking Japanese diplomat and Cambodia expert, before he ended his fact-finding visit to Cambodia.

On these occasions, the Cambodian leaders warmly welcomed the guest's visit, saying it was of significance and a contribution to the peace process in Cambodia.

Chairman Chea Sim informed the guest of the activities of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia, including the outcome of its latest session.

Chairman Hun Sen briefed his guest on the all-sided achievements recorded by the Cambodian people during the past 11 years and reaffirmed the Cambodian people's goodwill for putting an early end to the Cambodian conflict and the implementation of a voluntary ceasefire. He also spoke of the holding of general elections and the role of the Supreme National Council and the United Nations on the basis of the Tokyo joint communique.

In reply, Yukio Imagawa thanked the Cambodian leaders for their hospitality and their explanations on the Cambodian situation and the position of the State of Cambodia, and expressed his pleasure to see for himself

the real situation here during his tour of many provinces, adding that it helped him to better understand the Cambodian problem.

During his August 10-18 stay, Yukio Imagawa, who was accompanied by Mr, Reichi Takahashi, deputy head of the Southeast Asia Division in Japan's Foreign Ministry, had discussions with the Cambodian side on the recent development in Cambodia particularly the U.S. (?decision) to withdraw its recognition of the tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations. He visited a number of provinces, including Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Siem Reap and Kompong Som City.

Mr. Imagawa was the second senior Japanese official to visit Cambodia after Mr. Masaharu Kohno, head of the Southeast Asia Division in Japan's Foreign Ministry, who made a visit in February.

Cuban Foreign Minister Reiterates Support

BK2008154990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Comrade Hun Sen, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, recently received a reply message from his Cuban counterpart, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca.

The message read: I am very pleased with your clarification about the State of Cambodia's reason and stance on the settlement of the Cambodian problem. I have satisfactorily noted the just position and endeavor displayed by your government in the search for a settlement to end the decade-long war with a view toward achieving a national reconciliation in order to rebuild and promote the people's prosperity.

Within this context, I would like to reaffirm our solidarity with and support for the stand and determination of the State of Cambodia's Government. We pledge to become actively involved in bringing about a fair solution that you have championed for the Cambodian problem.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to reiterate our stance to further develop the relations of friendship and multifarious cooperation between our two countries and peoples. May you score new, still greater successes in the implementation of your tasks of vital importance.

Please, Comrade, accept our highest consideration.

Military Activities in Banteay Meanchey Reported

BK2008041090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The three groups of Cambodian reactionaries recently did their utmost to try to seize a part of Banteay Meanchey Province and use it as their stepping stone. The Armed Forces in Banteay Meanchey have counter-attacked and defeated them on every battlefield.

In the first seven months of 1990, Banteay Meanchey provincial armed forces killed 1,014 enemy soldiers and wounded 384 others; 61 were taken prisoner; and 279 assorted weapons, 28 tonnes of ammunition, and eight field radios were also seized. Our Armed Forces also persuaded 801 enemy soldiers to surrender, including 543 from the Son Sann side, 141 from the Sihanouk side, and 117 from the Pol Pot side.

Phnom Penh Regime Accepts Wider UN Role

BK1908072090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime is willing to accept a wider UN role in helping seek a settlement to end the 11-year war in Cambodia, a senior official of the Vietnam-installed regime said.

The Vietnamese-Heng Samrin regime's Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An told high-ranking Thai officials during a visit to Bangkok last week that the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime favored the formation of an interim supreme national council [SNC] made up of the four Cambodian parties, which are expected to meet in September so as to implement a cease-fire in Cambodia.

The Vietnamese-Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime said it would attend an SNC meeting next month. As for the three parties of the Cambodian resistance, they have already agreed to participate in the meeting.

The make-up and powers of the SNC as well as the scope of a UN role are pivotal issues in efforts by the major powers and regional states to work out a peace formula for Cambodia.

The Vietnam-installed Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime in Phnom Penh has, at all times, rejected an enhanced UN role in the quest for peace in Cambodia, arguing that the enhanced UN role in a Cambodian peace settlement can infringe upon Cambodia's sovereignty. However, observers noted that the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin regime's argument is nothing but a pretext to prevent the United Nations from having sufficient power in the peace settlement with the aim of deadlocking a political settlement which will restore peace and independence to Cambodia.

Resistance Leaders To Meet in Beijing 22-23 Aug

BK2008062990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A spokesman of the office of the personal representative of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing said the leaders of the Cambodian tripartite coalition resistance will meet in Beijing on Wednesday and Thursday [22-23 August] and that a joint communique will be issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

Khieu Samphan, leader of the party of Democratic Kampuchea, who arrived in Beijing last Saturday, had a meeting with Cambodian President His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk yesterday morning.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia and secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, arrived in Beijing yesterday from Bangkok.

His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, is expected to come to Beijing today to attend the inter-Cambodian meeting scheduled to take place early this week.

SRV Troops 'Routed' in Banteay Srei District

BK1908045490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] On 13 August, our national resistance forces completely routed the Vietnamese enemy troops on the stretch of route between Banteay Srei and Khna Rongveas; attacked two company and three platoon positions at O Chungruk and O Rumchek Villages; and liberated the office building of Prum Commune—all in Banteay Srei District of Siem Reap Province. We killed 15 enemy soldiers, including a tank regiment commander, and wounded 20 others. We destroyed a T-54 tank and damaged another and all the weapons and materiel aboard the tanks. In addition, we seized a 60-mm mortar, two B-40 rocket launchers, two B-41 rocket launchers, five AK's, and some war materiel.

17 Aug Interview With Khieu Samphan Reported

BK2008034590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 19 Aug 90

[17 August Interview by VONADK and VODK representatives with Cambodian Vice President Khieu Samphan on outcome of his recent trip to Senegal, Guinea, and Togo; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Reporter] Greetings to Your Excellency vice president. What countries did you visit and what are the positions of these countries on our Cambodian people's struggle?

[Khieu Samphan] Greetings to the representatives of our Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [VONADK] and Voice of Democratic Kampuchea [VODK] radio stations.

We usually allocate time for visits to friendly countries which support us because they very much want to know and understand the situation of our people's struggle. This year we allocated time for visits to three African countries: Senegal, Guinea, and Togo. Through the visits to these three countries, we can conclude that all African countries, which have been assisting and supporting us, continue to do so, as do all Third World countries. This year many friendly countries want to see us because there are many issues they want to discuss and ask us.

Senegal President Abdou Diouf received our delegation and warmly enquired about the situation of our struggle. He expressed very profound sentiments for Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of our Cambodian resistance forces, and for our people. He said Senegal's position will not change until the Cambodian people can decide their own destiny themselves. All Cambodians should have equal rights. We continue to support the Cambodian people as we have done in the past. The foreign minister of Senegal and many of his colleagues asked our delegation in detail about many events around our Cambodian people's national liberation struggle. This shows that friends are concerned and have followed our people's struggle. They have clearly understood our reasons and fully support and assist us. At the reception President Abdou Dioif hosted in our delegation's honor, he said the following in his speech:

Through all the efforts, we realize that to achieve durable peace in Cambodia, a comprehensive political solution is needed. All foreign troops should be withdrawn from Cambodia; there should be a cease-fire, the end of outside foreign military aid, and free and democratic election to enable the Cambodian people to decide their destiny themselves. Senegal has the profound desire to see the entire fraternal Cambodian people regain peace without foreign interference. We firmly believe that only a negotiated solution is an appropriate response to the request of the Cambodian people who want peace and national reconciliation. However, just and durable peace can be achieved only when all Cambodian parties are taken into account.

President Abdou Diouf stressed that:

The most important and one of the keys in order to get peace for Cambodia is the consideration given to all Cambodian parties because to solve the Cambodian problem, it is essential to have national reconciliation and wide international support. If any party is discarded, there can be no solution or this solution would be delayed. The United Nations is the most appropriate and correct framework. To ensure a comprehensive solution, the UN role should be supported.

Many Senegalese friends who attended the reception also cordially expressed warmest sentiments to assist and support us. Diplomats from other African countries accredited to Senegal, upon learning of our delegation's arrival, had expressed the desire to meet us. We had arranged for them to meet us at our embassy in a friendly atmosphere. On this occasion, they asked us many questions. They were very happy to meet us directly and hear our views directly from us. They had a clear understanding on many issues. Their sentiments toward our people got deeper and warmer.

In Guinea, the same warm and profound sentiments were also expressed. Foreign Minister Jean Traore and colleagues met and worked with us for a long period of time and enquired about details. They expressed great joy for a direct meeting with us. They affirmed to us that the Guinean

Government continues to assist and support our Cambodian people's struggle without any change.

In Togo, President Eyadema cordially and warmly received our delegation. The president affirmed his stance of supporting the cause of our Cambodian people's struggle saying:

The Cambodian people's struggle is our common struggle. The Cambodian people's struggle has a reason and is a just one. The Cambodian people will certainly win back their national independence because the Cambodian people's struggle is a just one. No matter what, the Cambodian people can firmly believe that Togo is always on the Cambodian people's side. We condemn all foreign aggression wherever it comes from. Otherwise, what would happen to the UN Charter? Everyone should respect the UN Charter.

Through the statements of President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, President Eyadema of Togo, and Foreign Minister of Guinea, and through leaders of the three countries we visited, we can clearly see the sentiments of all the African countries and those of the Third World countries in general. They essentially want all countries to respect the UN Charter and adhere to a clear and correct stance to oppose aggression regardless of its source. They are of the opinion that aggressors should not be rewarded otherwise peace and stability cannot be ensured in many parts of the world.

In Cambodia, Vietnam is the aggressor. Aggression should be punished. The Vietnamese aggressors should unconditionally withdraw all their aggressor forces from Cambodia. The UN Charter requires this. The Cambodian people's internal affairs are up to the Cambodian people to decide on the basis of the people deciding their destiny by themselves.

Furthermore, these countries also clearly realize that the Cambodian national government and the Cambodian national resistance forces have generous goodwill. The puppets and lackeys Vietnam has propped up in Phnom Penh, traitors, sellers of the nation to Vietnam, and nation killers, have been accepted by the Cambodian national government and the Cambodian national resistance forces as a party to solving the Cambodian problem. This stems from an open-minded view and stance.

The Cambodian national government and the Cambodian national resistance forces have asked the United Nations, the UN control organization, and the UN peacekeeping force to control both the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces and the prevention against one party dominating others, and the free election. All this is the generous goodwill of the Cambodian national government and the Cambodian national resistance forces. It is Vietnam and its out-and-out lackeys who oppose the UN role and who have created obstacles to prevent a solution to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia.

This is why the African countries and the Third World countries in general continue to support the Cambodian people, the Cambodian national government, and the Cambodian national resistance forces; and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces.

[Reporter] What is the stance of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] on a four Cambodian party meeting proposal to set up the supreme national council [SNC]?

[Khieu Samphan] On this issue, the PDK has already confirmed its position in my statement dated 2 August 1990. The PDK supports the initiative of the ASEAN countries and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council for the establishment of an SNC to cooperate with the United Nations in solving the Cambodian problem comprehensively. The PDK is happy to take part in the four Cambodian party meeting within the framework of the Paris conference on Cambodia in order to discuss the setting up of the SNC quickly. The PDK supports Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the SNC.

I would like to specify that the ASEAN countries and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council have proposed a four Cambodian party meeting to set up the SNC quickly. Thus, the objective of this meeting is to set up the SNC. It is not, as Vietnam and its puppets have deceitfully said, a meeting of the SNC. The so-called SNC which Vietnam and its puppets have deceitfully referred to has never existed. In truth, Vietnam and its puppets are being deceitful like this in order:

1. To avoid a four Cambodian meeting party to set up the SNC as proposed by the ASEAN countries and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council within the framework of the Paris conference on Cambodia.

2. The objective of Vietnam and its puppets remains the same, namely attempting to maintain the puppet regime so that the latter continues to hide Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia and through this, Vietnam will continue to occupy Cambodia.

3. The deceitful statements by Vietnam and its puppets on accepting the United Nations to control the so-called election are attempts to cheat and to get the United Nations to legitimize Vietnam's puppet regime, namely the election under Vietnam's puppet regime. This election would be organized by the Vietnamese aggressors.

In sum, Vietnam and its puppets continue to oppose a four Cambodian party meeting to set up the SNC quickly in accordance with the proposal of ASEAN and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. They oppose a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem and a comprehensive supervisory UN role. The PDK and the Cambodian national resistance forces support a four Cambodian party meeting to set up the SNC quickly as proposed by ASEAN and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem, and a major UN supervisory role.

Therefore, Vietnam and its puppets are showing their dirty faces on the issue of the quick establishment of a genuine SNC. And they continue to insanely do so.

Indonesia

Saudi Envoy Appeals to Muslim Leader for Support

BK1908065890 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0616 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—Not a single Moslem in Indonesia supports the Iraqi attack against Kuwait, chairman of the Indonesian Ulemas Council (MUI) Kh. Hasan Basri said when receiving a special representative of Saudi Arabia's king, Shaykh 'Abd'Al-'Aziz Al-Tunayin, here Saturday [18 August].

"I have just come from Malaysia. Moslems in that country are also of the same opinion," he added.

'Abd'Al-'Aziz Tunayin met the MUI chairman under the suggestion of Saudi ambassador to Indonesia Ta'lat Amin Hamdi to appeal for the sympathy and support of Moslems in Indonesia for the safety of Saudi Arabia which is threatened by Iraq's military aggression.

The representative informed the MUI chairman about the military aggression of Saddam Husayn's troops against Kuwait and the latest situation in which Iraqi troops had been aiming their cannons at Saudi Arabian territory.

"After annexing Kuwait and announcing that the country is part of Iraqi territory, Saddam Husayn threatened to topple the Saudi Arabian king. They said Mecca and Medina were in danger," Al-Tunayin said.

"There are 170,000 Iraqi troops in the border with Saudi Arabia," he disclosed.

In response to Al-Tunayin's explanation, Hasan Basri said quoting the Indonesian House Speaker that Indonesians had criticized the Iraqi attack against Kuwait.

As to Saddam Husayn's threat to attack Saudi Arabia, he added that the Iraqi president has no reason at all to conduct such military aggression. It is only the expression of his desire to extend his territory and get richer in oil.

The Indonesian Government has decided to help non-militarily, in the form of economic embargo against Iraq, and would send military help only through the United Nations (UN), Hasan Basri said.

Responding to Hasan Basri, Al-Tunayin explained that Saudi Arabia has the right to ask for military assistance from any country bilaterally, particularly from fellow Islamic countries.

The Saudi representative also said that he would meet President Suharto to ask for help.

After meeting the MUI chairman, he told ANTARA that Pakistan and Bangladesh had expressed their readiness to send their troops to Saudi Arabia.

Workers Return Home From Saudi Arabia

BK1908072690 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0616 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—The current Gulf crisis which follows Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, has caused Indonesians working in Saudi Arabia, especially in the country's eastern parts, to return home as many of their employers have fled to other areas of the desert kingdom.

Manpower Minister Kosmas Batubara along with chairman of the Inter-Country Workforce Suppliers (AKAN) Suramsihono and chairman of the Indonesian Association of Manpower Suppliers (IMSA) Tantio Sudharmono Saturday [18 August] witnessed the return of some 700 workers, mostly from Saudi Arabia, at the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport.

Kastumi, an Indonesian who has been working for one and a half years in Saudi city of Dahran, said that her master had told her to go home since he planned to flee to Jeddah.

"I myself feel scared. So many troops, planes and ships are moving to and fro," she said.

Another Indonesian Syamsu who has been working as a driver was told by his employer, a Saudi ranking official, to stay at home for two months.

Minister Batubara on the occasion disclosed that some 700 Indonesian workers were currently still in Kuwait. The Ministry of Manpower in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was working on efforts to immediately pull them out of the country, he explained.

The government would not let workforce problems remain unsettled, Batubara said but admitted that ministry's limited information gave no clarification on the workers' condition.

Meanwhile, AKAN chairman Suramsihono explained that within the last five days, some 300 to 400 Indonesian workers a day were unwillingly returning home from Saudi Arabia after their employers left their houses for safer places.

Within 13 to 17 august, some 1,585 Indonesian workers had returned home, Suramsihono said, adding that 200 out of them were working in eastern cities of the oil-rich kingdom. The cities were located next to the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Departure of a number of Indonesians to work in the Middle East was likely to be suspended because of the Gulf crisis, he said.

Suharto Declines To Send Troops to Saudi Arabia

BK1908125890 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] President Suharto received 'Abd Al-'Aziz, the special envoy of the Saudi Arabian King, at Jalan Cendana Presidential Palace in Jakarta today. During the meeting, President Suharto told 'Abd Al-'Aziz that Indonesia will not send a military force to Saudi Arabia. In the same breath, he also said that Indonesia does not support the Iraqi attack against Kuwait.

Speaking to newsmen, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said 'Abd Al-'Aziz had given President Suharto King Fahd's letter calling on Indonesia to send troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to help defend the country against an Iraqi attack.

Quoting the head of state, Minister Alatas said there is no provision in the Constitution for the president to send troops overseas to fight wars. So far Indonesia has dispatch troops only in the framework of United Nations peacekeeping operations. However, Indonesia fully understands Saudi Arabia's feelings and desire for help from its friends. Indonesia is calling on Iraq not to attack neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Minister Says Iraq Trade 'Temporarily Halted'

BK2008105990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1024 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar said here Monday [20 August] that the current conflict in the Middle East had a direct impact on Indonesia, particularly on its trade with Iraq.

Our trade with Iraq has been temporarily halted, because Iraqi accounts in several countries have also been frozen, he said when answering a press question after opening an annual conference of his ministry.

The four-day conference is attended by 184 participants representing central and provincial offices of the Ministry of Trade.

He further said that he regretted the trade halt with Iraq, whereas Indonesia had just signed a counter-purchase trade agreement with that country.

Before the signing of the agreement, he went on, Indonesia had previously imported oil from Iraq, while Indonesia sold various commodities like textiles, tea, and paper.

In its trade with Iraq, he said, Indonesia still suffered deficit since its import value had reached a total of 300 million US dollars, while its export value had so far reached only 200 million US dollars.

He hoped that the tension in the Gulf, ignited by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, would end soon peacefully, which would in turn reactivate the trade between Indonesia and Iraq.

However, since the conflict in the Gulf area was still prevailing, I hope that we can promote such a counter-purchase with Iran, he said adding that efforts to strengthen trade relations with Iran had been explored since last June.

Energy Minister Ginanjar Urges OPEC Meeting

'Limited' Meeting Proposed

BK2008094990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 20 (AFP)—Indonesia has proposed that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) hold a limited consultative meeting to discuss some members' demand for higher output, officials said Monday.

The proposal came amid indications that Saudi Arabia and Venezuela might raise output independently Tuesday if OPEC refused their demands for an emergency meeting to discuss replacing supplies from Kuwait and Iraq due to the current Gulf crisis.

Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said he had asked OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algiers to first call for a consultative meeting involving six of the 13 members to get a clearer picture of the situation before a full ministerial meeting could [be] held.

The meeting should be attended by Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Iran and Venezuela, representing OPEC's two sub-monitoring committees, and Algiers and Indonesia, respectively as president and alternate president, Mr. Ginanjar said.

To go directly to a full meeting "might not be effective and might even lead to an atmosphere of conflict," he said.

The proposal was relayed in a letter on Friday and had been forwarded to other members, he said, adding that the meeting could be held Sunday at the earliest.

OPEC's supply to the world markets has been cut by some four million barrels a day following the trade embargo imposed by the United Nations against Iraq and Kuwait following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, has for the past week sought to hold an immediate emergency meeting to raise the group's output but some members resisted apparently for fears that OPEC risked disintegration if it met during the tension of the Gulf crisis.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir has said that his country was prepared to increase its oil output by some two million barrels per day above its current OPEC quota of 5.38 million bpd.

He also said that Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates could each increase their production by 500,000 bpd, leaving a shortfall of one million bpd to be made up by other countries.

Mr. Ginanjar said he did not consider Mr. Nazir's statement as a threat to other OPEC members. "I don't think it appropriate for any one OPEC member to threaten another," he said.

But he said a member had a right to raise output without consulting the others, if it wanted to, adding that Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had done this in the past. "It will then be responsible for its own actions, and is not OPEC's responsibility," he added.

Speaks to Suharto 20 Aug

BK2008104590 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1013 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia believes each OPEC state has the right to increase its own oil output but no nation in the world may dictate OPEC to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the possibility of raising oil production.

This was underscored by Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita moments after he met with President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office Monday.

In the meeting he briefed the president on Indonesia's proposal to OPEC President Sadek Boussena for an OPEC limited session.

Saudi Arabia, according to its Oil Minister Hisham Nazir Saturday [18 August], intended to unilaterally raise its oil output unless OPEC holds an emergency meeting in the forthcoming few days to discuss the possibility of increasing OPEC's oil production.

I didn't feel that Saudi Arabia was making a threat. I don't believe that the Saudi wish to increase production is a threat to OPEC. I think no country is wishing to make a threat. And I also think it is unwarranted that any country should like to dictate its wish on OPEC, Ginanjar said.

Besides, OPEC is made up of sovereign member states and certainly none of these members would like to be dictated on by any other member, he added.

I think Saudi Arabia was aware of that and certainly they had not intended to issue any threat. If Saudi Arabia or any other country wished to raise its oil output, that is that country's right as a sovereign state. That also is its own responsibility and not that of OPEC.

Commenting further on the Saudi wish for an OPEC emergency session discuss shortage of oil in the world, Ginanjar said there actually were two groups within OPEC regarding the matter.

One group desires an emergency meeting for the purpose. The other group does not see any urgency for such an emergency meeting, believing that such a meeting would be necessary only after the reserve oil stocks in the consuming countries had been depleted.

To overcome differences of opinion among OPEC members, Ginanjar sent a letter to OPEC President Sadek Boussena several days ago, requesting him to hold a limited meeting.

Ginanjar proposed that Boussena meet oil ministers of Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela and Indonesia.

Explaining his proposal, the minister said that the oil ministers were expected to discuss market conditions, formulate the problem and to seek way out from the shortfall in oil supplies on the world market.

It would be good if the OPEC president would first invite a number of countries which represented different ideas within OPEC to consider whether an emergency meeting was needed, Ginanjar said.

He said that countries which could be invited by the OPEC presiden are those representing the two poles within OPEC.

But many of OPEC members do not agree to an emergency meeting, he added.

When asked about the effect of the increase in the oil price, the minister said that on the one hand Indonesia was happy with it because its Minas oil, for example, had also increased to 26 U.S. dollars per barrel.

On the other hand, the sharp increase was not advantageous to Indonesia because it could create uncertainties.

He said that the falling short of oil supplies on the world market had also caused difficulties for a number of developing countries. India and the Philippines have asked for oil from Indonesia.

Ginanjar said that the advanced countries should also bear responsibilities for the increase in the oil price because the United Nations' embargo on Iraqi oil and other products constituted a proposal from the developed nations.

Foreign Companies To Invest in Telephone Network

BK1908113190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0624 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Surabaya, Java, Aug 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—Six telecommunications companies of France, Japan and the United States have expressed intention to cooperate with the state-run telecommunications company, Perumtel, to build telecommunications network in Indonesia.

"A feasibility study on the private foreign companies' intention is currently being carried out," Perumtel operational director A. Purwo said here over the weekend.

The cooperation offered by Perumtel might be in the forms of production sharing or compensation and grant, Purwo said, adding that in providing telecommunications facilities, specifically telephones, Perumtel tended to apply the production sharing system in cooperation with both domestic and foreign companies.

The six telecommunications companies, in a five-year project, would build two million telephone connections, Purwo said. They would provide the funds whereas the network would be arranged in line with the one operated by Perumtel, he added.

Perumtel, under the production sharing system, currently cooperates with five national private companies.

Laos

Statement Issued With Thailand on Army Meeting

BK1708141790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Joint statement issued by the Lao People's Army and the Thai army following their consultative meeting in Bangkok—date not given]

[Text] From 15 to 18 August 1990, a high-level military delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by His Excellency General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of General Staff of the Lao People's Army, paid an official friendship visit to the Kingdom of Thailand at the invitation of His Excellency General Sunthon Khongsomphong, Armed Forces supreme commander, and His Excellency General Suchinda Khraprayun, Army commander of the Kingdom of Thailand. During the visit, the military delegations of the two sides held discussions and exchanged views on relations between their armies and have unanimously agreed to the following:

1. Both delegations have agreed that relations between the two countries have improved gradually. On this basis, the delegations will propose to their respective governments to increasingly promote relations and cooperation in the economic, trade, investment, communications, public health, educational, cultural, and tourism fields.

2. Both delegations have agreed that it is appropriate to hold consultations on their border problems so as to resolve it soon, in particular the problems affecting the border areas of Laos' Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and Thailand's Chat Trakan District.

3. Both delegations have agreed to cooperate in preventing and suppressing crime along their common borders, including the prevention and the suppression of terrorist movements and those of exiled Lao rebels. Regarding this, consultations will be held to set details and appropriate conditions for the suppression in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country.

4. With regard to Lao refugees residing in Thailand, both delegations have agreed that they will ask their respective governments to contact the United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees to seek ways to settle the problem of Lao refugees in Thailand by a certain time.

5. Both delegations have agreed that at present their armies have good relations, and that on this basis, it is appropriate for them to exchange assistants to military attaches in the near future.

6. His Excellency Gen. Sisavat Keobounphan has expressed great satisfaction over the outcome of the consultations and has expressed great thanks to the Thai side for granting him an audience with Her Royal Highness Maha Chakkri Sirinthon and courtesy calls on His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister; His Excellency Banhan Sinlapa-acha, minister of interior; and Major General Chamlong Simuang, the governor of metropolitan Bangkok.

He has also expressed hearty thanks to His Excellency Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong, Armed Forces supreme commander, and His Excellency Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, Army commander, as well as to other military officers and officials and the fraternal Thai people for their warm welcome given to the LPDR high-level military delegation on this occasion.

His Excellency Gen. Sisavat Keobounphan has invited a high-level Thai military delegation to officially visit Laos. The Thai side has accepted the invitation with pleasure.

During the visit to the Kingdom of Thailand, on the morning of 17 August, the high-level military delegations of the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand also jointly signed a memorandum on the basis of the spirit and contents of the joint statement on the outcome of the consultations.

Acting President Meets Outgoing Canadian Envoy

BK1808065090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from Lawrence Smith, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Canada to the LPDR, who bade farewell to the acting president since he has completed his three-year tenure of diplomatic service in Laos.

In the meeting, which proceeded in a cordial atmosphere, the guest and the host noted that under the present circumstances, the strengthening of cooperation and mutual assistance is considered a very significant issue beneficial to national economic development.

On this occasion, Phoumi Vongvichit also hailed the ambassador's notable accomplishment of his tasks which have contributed to promoting, expanding, and

improving, with each passing day, the relations and cooperation between the two countries—Laos and Canada.

The Canadian ambassador to Laos has his office situated in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand.

On the afternoon of the same day, Phoun Sipaseut, foreign affairs minister of the LPDR, also received a farewell call from the Canadian ambassador.

Philippines

Further Reportage on Reaction to Mideast Crisis

$100 Million Lost in Iraq Deal

HK1708044790 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 17 Aug 90 p 2

[By Anthony Cuaycong]

[Text] The Philippines lost at least $100 million in export earnings as a result of an aborted deal with Iraq, now in the midst of hostilities with Kuwait.

This was the assessment of Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion, as he revealed that prior to the conflict in the Persian Gulf, the Philippines and Iraq had entered into a countertrade agreement, and originally set to be finalized by November this year.

"I was supposed to be in Iraq this November to conclude arrangements, open up over investments, and (promote) our trade exhibits," he told reporters in Malacanang. He said the countertrade arrangement was supposed to have secured for the Philippines vital oil requirements from Iraq in exchange for Philippine products from the garment, manufacturing and handicraft industries.

Although Mr. Concepcion admitted that the aborted deal does not constitute a substantial loss on the Philippines' part, the arrangement could have formed an integral part of government program to enhance exports in countries where the Philippines has a trade deficit. Mr. Concepcion, however, said the war between the two Middle East countries will "slow down" the Philippine economy." We will be pressed (by our foreign exchange requirements, because... we will suffer from (loss of) receipts from overseas contract workers in the Middle East and from (lost revenues) in tourism." In this light, Mr. Concepcion said the country "must boost (its) export, and... provide financial credits to exporters who have the capacity to produce (under) reasonable interest rates."

Manila Seeks UN Consultations

HK1708095790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Aug 90 pp 1, 5

[By Romy V. Mapile]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus yesterday said instructions had been sent to Ambassador Sedfrey Ordonez at the United Nations in New York to consult with his counterparts regarding the plight of Filipino workers in Kuwait and Iraq.

Manglapus said the Philippine Government may avail itself of Security Council Article 50 to consult with the United Nations on the sanctions against Iraq. Under this provision, "a country, which finds itself confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of those measures" may ask for such consultations. "The ground for seeking recourse under this article is that these workers in Kuwait and Iraq are important elements in our economic development, since their remittances to our country contribute significantly to the national coffers," Manglapus said. Secretary Manglapus said the same grounds will be invoked by other countries similarly affected during the consultations, particularly among the ambassadors from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, and even more developed countries like Korea and Japan. Manglapus said, "We don't have any specific request to make yet on oil and this item could be brought out later but right now, our main problem is the evacuation of our workers and that during the process they are attended to regarding food and amenities."

Diplomatic Protest Planned

HK1708120590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Report by Dick Sinchongco from Malacanang—live or recorded]

[Text] Malacanang today announced that the Philippine Government would file a diplomatic protest against Iraq as a result of the rape of several Filipino contract workers by Iraqi soldiers. The president gave the assurance of an emphatic denouncement by the Philippine Government of the said abuses committed against the Philippine women. According to the president, the Department of Foreign Affairs is already preparing the country's protest. Also to be included in the protest is a reminder of the prior assurance given by Iraq for the safety of Filipino citizens in the areas affected by the war. The president further added that they have asked for the assistance of the Philippine National Red Cross in collating evidence relating to the reported abuses committed by the Iraqi soldiers. Aside from this, officials of the Philippine embassies in the Middle East are also trying to find out more about the reported rapes of Filipinos. Prior to this, one of the alleged victims of rape and abuse by the Iraqi soldiers had already arrived back in the country.

Jordan Rejects Transit Request

HK1708130790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Aug 90

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] today announced the Jordanian Government turned down a Philippine request to use Jordan as a transit point for food and medicine for about 5,000 stranded Filipino workers at the Philippine embassy in Kuwait.

In a report by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait to the DFA, Philippine Ambassador to Jordan Pacifico Castro said a top Jordanian Government official told him Jordan will not agree to the Philippines using the Port of Aqaba, on the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian border, to transport supplies for stranded Filipinos in Kuwait. The Jordanian official told Castro that UN Security Council Resolution No. 661, which imposes economic sanctions on Iraq, also prohibits them from granting the Philippines' request.

According to the official, they are concerned with U.S. President George Bush's threat to block the Port of Aqaba if Jordan allows the port to be used as transit point for food for stranded foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait. If we allow the passage of food through Aqaba, this will result in our economic self-destruction if the U.S. proceeds with its blockade on the port, the Jordanian official said.

The DFA, meanwhile, announced Secretary Raul Manglapus has ordered Sedfrey Ordonez, the permanent representative to the United Nations, to consult with India's permanent representative and the United Nation's secretary general on problems facing the two countries as a result of UN sanctions against Iraq.

Iraqi Ambassador Cited

HK1708123790 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 17 Aug 90

[From "GMA News" program—no video available]

[Text] Iraqi Ambassador 'Ali Sumaydah is appealing to all to exercise prudence in reporting about the alleged rape cases in Kuwait, as this could ruin the good relations between Iraq and the Philippines. Sumaydah stressed that his government is doing its best to provide sufficient protection for the Filipinos in Kuwait and Iraq. He said there is no food shortage there:

[Begin recording] [passage in Arabic omitted]

[Unidentified speaker in English] I would like to comment on the big complaint about this allegation of rape, but I would also call on the media here and the Filipino people not to believe this kind of propaganda, because after all we are friends. We have good relations with the Philippines and other countries. We need the Philippine people to go to our country to take part in the development plan in our country. [end recording]

Indonesia To Fulfill Oil Needs

HK1808043890 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Philippines received assurances from Indonesia it would fulfill the country's oil requirements. Indonesian Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita stated that OPEC will strive to supply the oil needs of all countries which used to depend on Iraq and Kuwait for their oil. Indonesia is the only Asian member of OPEC.

New Airport Sought for Rescue

BK1808104390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] MAnila, Aug 18 (AFP)—The Philippines is searching for an alternative airport to Amman to pick up Filipino workers displaced by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Press Undersecretary Lourdes Siytangco said here Saturday.

President Corazon Aquino has directed Jordanian Ambassador Pacifico Castro "to find another place" where the national flag-carrier, Philippine Airlines (PAL) could pick up the Filipinos wishing to leave Kuwait, Mrs. Siytangco said.

Filipino overseas workers previously were flown out of the Amman airport but PAL said using the Jordanian capital had become too expensive because of increased insurance costs amid the heightened tensions in the Gulf.

Some 60,000 Filipinos were working in Kuwait when it was invaded on August 2. A few have managed to escape across the desert into Saudi Arabia and have been repatriated, but thousands have crowded into the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait, seeking to leave. Iraq has allowed the Filipinos in Kuwait to leave via Baghdad, then to Jordan. Manila has said it is considering sending ships to pick up the Filipinos but has not yet found a port where the ships can dock.

Sending Troops Ruled Out

OW1808113490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Manila, Aug. 18 KYODO—The Philippines has ruled out the possibility of sending combat troops to the Persian Gulf, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said Saturday.

"The government has no intention to send troops there," Ramos was quoted by the government-run PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY as telling an unscheduled press conference at the Defense Department in suburban Quezon City. Ramos added that the government has also decided to use civilian aircraft rather than military planes to ferry home the thousands of Filipino workers stranded in Iraq and Kuwait. Defense and military officials had said earlier it would be "dangerous" to send military aircraft to bring home the workers because they might be mistaken for hostile flights.

There are more than 600,000 Filipino contract workers in the Middle East, 474,472 of them in Saudi Arabia, 30,000 in Kuwait, and 3,194 in Iraq. The figures do not include the thousands believed to be working illegally in those countries. Since the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, less than 1,000 Filipino workers have been evacuated to the Philippines.

Further Reportage on Government-Rebel Conflict

Snipers Defend Noble's Hideout

HK1608041590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Aug 90 p 8

[By Mike Crismundo]

[Text] Esperanza, Agusan del Sur—Government troops assaulting the well-fortified hide-out of renegade Army colonel Alexander C. Noble in barangay Salug here are encountering stiff resistance as Noble's men, mostly Higaonon native warriors, harass the advancing column of Marine soldiers with snipers' fire, it was reported.

When fired upon by well-positioned snipers, the soldiers dove into ditches but they were either wounded by landmines or pierced by sharp bamboo spikes earlier set up by Noble's defenders, reports reaching the office of the Mayor here said. The booby traps and landmines were concealed with leaves and grasses, the reports said.

In the sporadic fighting going on since last Friday when the operation to capture Noble was launched, the attacking government troops suffered some casualties, reports received by the office of Mayor Felomeno Conol said. However, Col. [Colonel] Roger Navarro, spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, belied published reports that 10 government soldiers were killed and many others were wounded in the fighting.

Navarro said that only two soldiers, identified as Lt. [Lieutenant] Joselito Tocaldo of the eighth Infantry Battalion and Pfc. [Private First Class] Ladia Sally of the Marines, were wounded in the last two days. Tocaldo and Sally were wounded in the knee, face, and arms by landmines and booby traps, he said.

As of Monday afternoon, sources in the military said that the marine contingent has already occupied barangays Hawilian, Remedios, and Milagros, said to be three of 10 villages tagged as stronghold of Noble.

Thrown into the biggest military operations in this province as blocking forces are four Army battalions of the fourth Infantry Division under Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Miguel Sol and the 10 regional special forces under Recom [Regional Command] 10 CP-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Peralta Jr.

The troops are backed up by artillery, gunships, and soldiers of the four provincial Constabulary commands. The all-out offensive against Noble was launched last Friday after the renegade colonel and his band failed to surrender despite ultimatum issued by the military. Since the start of hostilities last Friday, no casualty on Noble's side was reported.

Mayor Conol said that loud machineguns and mortar fires were heard by town folk here last Saturday and Sunday. The fighting broke out at Hill 123 in barangay Bulo.

Manila Wants Cease-Fire Talks

HK1708045390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Aug 90 p 9

[Text] Secretary Franklin M. Drilon said yesterday the government has decided to invite representative groups of "leftist" and "rightist" elements to a discussion on a ceasefire proposal.

Drilon said the decision to open discussions on the ceasefire was arrived at during a meeting of the Cabinet Cluster E, the committee on national security and political matters.

In a letter to Senator Wigberto E. Tanada chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon and justice committees. Drilon said the Executive branch of the government considered the importance and the complexity of the ceasefire proposal before it decided "to explore various ramifications."

Tanada had earlier sent to President Aquino a letter urging an immediate declaration of a national ceasefire as embodied in Senate Resolution 891.

Drilon said the Cabinet Cluster E has formed a committee to study the ceasefire proposal. The committee is composed of National Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, Rafael Ileto, Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III, Cabinet Secretary Jose de Jesus, and Drilon.

Mayor Wounded, Bodyguard Killed

HK1708054590 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 17 Aug 90 p 8

[By F. Taboy]

[Text] The mayor of Maguindanao was seriously wounded when 20 armed men ambushed his group near a military headquarters in the area at noon on Tuesday. One of his bodyguards was killed while five others, four of whom were Maguindanao policemen, were seriously wounded.

Based on a delayed report received by Major General Cesar Nazareno, chief of the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police, Mayor Kahir Macapigis of Matanog, Maguindanao sustained bullet wounds in his body and face, after they were fired upon by suspected rebel Muslims at round 1220 in Camp 2, Matanog, near the 450th Philippine Constabulary Company.

Macapigis' slain bodyguard was identified as Patrolman Tong Akmad. Seriously wounded were Corporal Ysmael Mama, Patrolman First Class Musa Sampurna, Amir Macapigis, Kenneth Kunsuan, and a civilian who was only identied as Datu.

An investigation by the Matanog police showed that the victims were on their way to town when they were ambushed by unidentified assailants who immediately escaped in the direction of Barrira, Maguindanao.

Military Under Red Alert

HK1808091490 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Major General Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, announced that the country's Armed Forces is ready at all times to deal with threats coming from rebel soldiers led by Gringo Honasan, who earlier warned of new coup attempts. According to Gen. Biazon, more than 2,500 officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] are prepared to deal with Honasan's threat. He also stressed, however, that the rebel soldiers no longer have the capacity to launch a new coup, but could stage destabilization moves such as bombings and other forms of terroristic activities. Gen. Biazon added government soldiers have awakened to the truth and realized there was no justification in siding with the rebels once a coup is launched.

To prove the Armed Forces is prepared, a tactical inspection was held this morning at Camp Aguinaldo. More than 2,000 soldiers armed with highpowered weapons were assembled in the exercise. Twenty-one armoured vehicles, tanks, eight 105 mm howitzers, more than 100 recoilless rifles, and 90 rr [expansion unknown] antitanks also were included in the inspection.

It was learned members of the 1st Marine Brigade, 701st and 203rd Army Brigades were placed on red alert since yesterday morning as a precaution against any attempts by rebel soldiers headed by Gringo Honasan.

Meanwhile, all Armed Forces of the Philippines units were placed under red alert, starting Friday afternoon, following threats by rightwing military rebels to press on with their antigovernment operations. AFP spokesman Colonel Juanito Rimando said the red alert order was a precautionary measure against any destabilization move by the Revolutionary National Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People [Ram-KSP].

According to Rimando, all troops were recalled in various military camps while liberty passes and leaves were cancelled in a move to foil any possible attacks.

It is recalled that ex-Lieutenant Colonel Gringo Honasan issued a statement last Friday calling on all rebel soldiers around the country to carry on with tactical operations against the present government as a revenge against an AFP attack of a rebel camp headed by renegade Colonel Alexander Noble in northeastern Mindanao last week.

Honasan's order also followed a series of bomb explosions in government and business establishments in Metro Manila believed to be perpetrated by the RAM-KSP and the Young Officers Union.

Policeman Ambushed, Killed

BK1808145490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Manila, Aug 18 (AFP)—Gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead a police captain late Saturday in suburban Manila, while a bomb exploded outside a city police station causing minor damage, police said.

The separate incidents came the day after military camps in the capital were put on red alert to head off another possible coup attempt by rightist forces, who have been blamed for a series of bombings here in the past week. Police spokesmen said Captain Raymundo Venus was killed in an ambush by two motorcycle-riding men in Quezon City, a residential suburb of Manila. They said they could not name any suspects or give further details since the case was under investigation.

Private radio station DZMM said the slain officer was a bodyguard of Quezon City Mayor Brigido Simon, but the report could not be confirmed. Communist insurgent assassins have killed hundreds of military men, police and civilians in this city since 1987. They usually operate in small groups and strike in ambush. Meanwhile, a bomb went off near an unused gasoline pump near a city police station gate, demolishing the pump and causing lighting fixtures in the station to fall off the ceiling, but injuring no one, Private Jose Divinagracia said.

He said the bombers may have thought the pump still contained gasoline and were hoping to cause even more damage by blowing it up. He would not say who may have been behind the bombing. Pvt. Divinagracia said that on Friday night, police had received a threat that a bomb would go off within that vicinity. "Only it exploded tonight," he said.

A series of bombings of public places have occured in this city in the past weeks. They are widely believed to be the work of rightist military renegades who have threatened to mount a new coup attempt against the government of President Corazon Aquino.

Weekend Bombings in Manila

HK1908043290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0402 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] MANILA, Aug 19 (AFP) - Four bombs exploded in separate parts of the capital overnight, including at the justice department, as the military remained on red alert amid rumors of a coup attempt, Philippine officials said Sunday.

A bomb went off in the deserted parking lot of the justice department compound in central Manila before dawn, causing no injuries or damage, police said. Slight damage

was reported in three earlier explosions late Saturday which hit the headquarters of the Republic Flour Mills Corp., the mechanical equipment building of the Shoemart department store and a gas station near a Manila police station.

Police made no arrests and said the identities of the bombers could not be determined. Similar attacks have been going on for the past two weeks. The Armed Forces have been on full alert since Friday in anticipation of a coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino, who has weathered six military rebellions since she came to power in 1986.

Troops Slain During Manhunt

BK1908100690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Esperanza, Philippines, Aug 19 (AFP)—Dozens of soldiers have been killed near this southern town in fierce fighting with armed followers of a rebel army colonel they are pursuing, civilians fleeing the clashes said Sunday.

Renegade troops and militia loyal to Colonel Alexander Noble are using sniper fire, landmines and ambushes to defend him, they said. Meanwhile, the military is trying to flush him out using artillery, T-28 planes and attack helicopters.

Col. Noble, a former member of President Corazon Aquino's elite Presidential Security Group, took part in a bloody coup attempt against her in December.

Military officials in and around this town in Agusan Del Sur Province refused to confirm the casualty reports or give details of the operation. Brigadier General Jesus Ranjo, commander of 402nd Infantry Brigade units in the manhunt, confirmed only that rockets were being fired by military aircraft on suspected rebel strongholds. The civilian evacuees said they saw 29 dead soldiers and 11 others injured in the first five days of the manhunt, which they said started on August 10. Another soldier was killed in an ambush on Friday and up to 11 died in another rebel attack early Saturday, they said.

The evacuees also recounted an apparent "misengagement" Friday when a Marine unit involved in the operation traded artillery fire with an infantry unit armed with mortars.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos confirmed in Manila Thursday that two battalions of troops comprising about 1,100 officers and men were combing the Agusan Del Sur jungles for Col. Noble and "a handful" of his followers. He said one soldier has been wounded in the operation and 4,000 villagers have fled their homes. But he rejected claims by Gregorio Honasan, the fugitive cashiered army colonel who led the December putsch, that 15 soldiers have been killed and 32 wounded in the operation.

The evacuees said the operation involved units from seven infantry battalions, two marine battalions, the paramilitary Constabulary's Special Action Force in the region and constabulary from the neighboring province of Bukidnon.

Newspaper Reports Bombings

HK2008050390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Aug 90 p 1, 13

[By Rey Panaligan]

[Text] Five bomb explosions rocked Metro Manila over the weekend, injuring a firm's chief security officer, as military and police forces continued to be on red alert against rebel forces.

The bombs damaged the offices of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department, of Trade and Industry (DTI), SM City-EDSA [Shoemart], Republic Flour Mills (RFM), and a Western Police District (WPD) station last Saturday night and early yesterday morning. Police said the chief security officer of the RFM building on Pioneer St Mandaluyong, was injured in the blast.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, saying he could have been the target of the bomb hurled at his office at the DOJ, said "we will not be intimidated by the bombings."

"In our drive against criminality and venalities in government, we may be stepping on the shoes of big people. But we will not back out of our drive," Drilon said. A bomb hurled at Drilon's office hit the powerhouse and created a crater more than one foot in diameter.

The impact of the blast destroyed glass windows on the ground floor, those at Drilon's office, and on the third floor of the DOJ building on Padre Faura St, Ermita, Manila. Drillon directed Justice Undersecretary Sylvestre Bello III to beef up security to assure the safety of DOJ personnel.

Aquino Accepts Commission Chairman's Resignation

HK1608143390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] President Aquino has accepted the resignation of Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG] chairman Mateo Caparas. The statement was issued by presidential spokesman Adolf Azcuna to Malacanang reporters. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin recording] Azcuna said the resignation of PCGG chairman Caparas will take effect next month. Caparas recommended Commissioner Castro to replace him. However, Malacanang has not issued any statement naming Castro to the post vacated by Caparas. According to the presidential spokesman, Caparas has long wanted the president to accept his resignation because, as per agreement between the president and Caparas, the latter should only serve for 30 months as

PCGG chairman. Azcuna said Caparas has a long-standing commitment to serve the Rotary International fulltime in his capacity as president of the Rotary Foundation, thus his resignation. [end recording]

Thailand

Reportage Continues on Crisis in Gulf Area

Limpaphan Meets Saudi Workers

BK1808111190 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Thai Information Office in Riyadh reported that yesterday afternoon Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan accompanied by a Thai delegation comprised of Suwit Sutthanukun, secretary general of the National Security Council, and Kopsak Chutikun, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, arrived in Dhahran from Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. They met more than 2,000 Thai workers at the Oberoi Hotel in Dhahran.

The deputy foreign minister said that he visited Saudi Arabia for three reasons. The first was to hold talks with his Saudi Arabian counterpart on the promotion of relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia, and to convey to Saudi Arabia the Thai Government's good wishes and concerns over the current situation in the Persian Gulf. He said that Thailand supports the rights of Saudi Arabia to protect itself. The second purpose of his visit was to discuss with his Saudi Arabian counterpart the issue of reentry visas for Thai workers, to enable them to return to work in Saudi Arabia. The third reason was to discuss how the Saudi Arabian Government would protect Thai workers in Saudi Arabia. On this matter, the Saudi Arabian foreign minister said that his government would give full protection to Thai workers. On the issue of reentry visas, the Thai authorities will hold further discussions with the Interior Ministry of Saudi Arabia.

On this occasion, the Thai deputy foreign minister conveyed good wishes from Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan to the Thai workers in Saudi Arabia, saying that the Thai Government will never neglect them. The government regards Thai people overseas as its fellow countrymen whose services benefit the country. Since these workers are in such a critical situation, the Thai Government will try every possible way to assure them that they receive full protection and care. The Thai workers were told not to panic, but to try and help each other.

The deputy foreign minister said that the main purpose of his trip yesterday was to oversee the evacuation of Thai workers who fled from Kuwait—a total of 654 workers. This migration of Thai workers from Kuwait into Saudi Arabia continues. He said that he also wanted to observe the operations of all the officials concerned with facilitating the quick and safe repatriation of the Thai workers. He told these officials that the Thai Government has sent two metric tons of consumer goods for these workers. The workers expressed their satisfaction and thanks to the Thai Government for all its assistance.

Workers Return From Middle East

BK1908092290 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] At the Don Muang International Airport this morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan and a group of more than 100 Thai workers who escaped the Iraq-Kuwait conflict arrived home safely. Immediately after their arrival, Praphat made the following comments to a reporter of the Public Relations Department:

[Begin Praphat recording] I was assigned by the prime minister and the foreign minister to check on the conditions of the Thai workers in the Middle East who are being affected by the Iraq-Kuwait conflict. Altogether, there are about 200,000 Thai workers in the Middle East. Among them, the workers in Kuwait are suffering the most from the current crisis. They are very pitiful and are forced to take care of themselves.

The main purpose of my trip was to set guidelines for the evacuation of the Thai workers who fled from Kuwait. An operations center was set up in Dhahran in a very convenient location. The workers faced many difficulties getting into Saudi Arabia. In the initial stage, only those who fled across the desert were able to make it into Saudi Arabia. These people suffered many hardships. In some areas during their trip they could not find any water to drink. We discussed this matter with the Saudi Arabian deputy foreign minister. Saudi Arabia then agreed to open a border checkpoint for these fleeing workers, making it easier for them to enter the country. We set up a reception center near the Saudi-Kuwaiti border and dispatched our officials to work there. So far, nearly 700 Thai workers have entered through this checkpoint. Today, a total of 116 Thai workers, including eight women, plus a little baby came on the flight with me. Apart from that, there were more workers who entered the camp yesterday. We are renting a camp. Actually it is not a camp; it is unused residential units of some Saudi workers. Our workers stay there and are given three meals a day. After arriving in Saudi Arabia they feel much better. [end recording]

Limpaphan Comments on Evacuation

BK1908151590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan returned today from the Middle East where he supervised the evacuation of Thai workers. Upon arriving at the Bangkok airport, the minister said that during his trip he asked the Saudi deputy foreign minister for his cooperation in allowing

the Thai workers fleeing Kuwait to be evacuated to Thailand through the operation center set up in Dhahran, the most convenient location for the evacuation. He noted that, after the talks, the evacuation had become much easier than in the beginning when the workers had to walk through the desert.

The minister said that 117 Thais arrived with him today. He said that the evacuation plan is divided into stages. Officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Labor Department are posted at the operation center and workers' camps. There are also officials who are in charge of the food supply. Once the Thai workers arrive at the center in Dhahran, they are brought to the workers' camps. This move has greatly bolstered the morale of the Thai workers there.

There are from 4,000 to 5,000 Thai workers left in Iraq. About 1,200 of them will return after Monday. Only a small number of Thai workers have been evacuated because the majority of them are still unaware of the evacuation plan. The BBC news service has been broadcasting news, in Thai, to inform the Thai listeners of the evacuation plans. It is hoped that there will be more workers arriving at the operation center. More than 800 Thai workers have been evacuated so far. All of them are safe; none have been killed or wounded.

The deputy foreign minister said that he informed the Thai workers in Saudi Arabia about the situation, and told them to prepare themselves. However, in his assessment, the situation in Saudi Arabia is not as serious as what is being reported in the news, and there is no need for an evacuation of Thai workers there. The Saudi deputy foreign minister has given him full assurances that all Thai nationals will be given full protection. The Saudi deputy foreign minister said that he has confidence in the army of his country. Concerning threats from Iraq to use chemical weapons, the Saudi minister said that this is not dreadful because U.S. planes are conducting patrols every 10 minutes.

Ambassador To Look After Thais

BK2008143490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Kopsak Chutikun, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, has reported that Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan this afternoon invited Iraqi Ambassador to Thailand Munir al-Batha'i for a meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The deputy foreign minister expressed his concerns over the safety of Thai workers in Kuwait, especially over the reported maltreatment of female workers by Iraqi troops. He therefore asked the Iraqi ambassador to report this issue to his government and to ask his government to look after the safety of the Thai workers. He also asked Iraq to evacuate the Thai citizens, especially the children and women, from Kuwait, quickly and safely.

Regarding this issue, the Iraqi ambassador pledged that his government would try its best to look after the Thai workers because Thailand is a good friend of Iraq and is not involved in the war. The Thai people in Kuwait are now safe and have sufficient food; their health is good. The Iraqi envoy asked the Thai people and workers to have confidence that the Iraqi Government would try its best to take care of the Thai citizens in Kuwait and Iraq. He said that Iraq is ready to facilitate the evacuation of Thai workers in Kuwait who want to travel through Iraq to Jordan in order to return home.

PLO Asked To Help Workers

BK2008154590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The PLO ambassador to Hanoi, (Sai Al Matli), who made a stopover in Thailand, called on Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan at the Foreign Ministry today. The deputy foreign minister informed the PLO ambassador that about 6,000 Thai workers are still stranded in Kuwait while about 3,000 Thais are working in Iraq. Since the PLO maintains good relations with Iraq and Kuwait and has embassies as well as a large number of businessmen in both countries, Thailand would like to ask for cooperation from the PLO in its efforts to evacuate Thai workers from that area—such as in the use of the PLO Embassy in Kuwait to contact the Thai Embassy there, and for facilities to transport food supplies or find transportation for Thai workers, and for coordination with local authorities in Kuwait over the evacuation of Thai workers to Thailand. The PLO ambassador said he would bring Thailand's requests to the attention of the PLO leader most urgently.

Nakayama To Tour Mideast

OW1708121090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Bangkok, Aug. 17 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Bangkok on Friday en route to an eight-day tour of five Mideast countries to explore ways Japan can contribute to peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Impact of Oil Prices Examined

BK1908114190 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 18 Aug 90 p 3

[Editorial: "We Must Be Economical in Every Way"]

[Text] The world oil price now stands at $26 per barrel and there is no sign that the price will go down to $21 per barrel as fixed by OPEC. Instead, there is every possibility that the price will go up again. This signals danger for the balance of our income and expenditures, as the prices of commodities and services will certainly go up.

The world is small. All countries are economically interrelated in the trade of commodities and services. The

increase in oil prices will push up production costs everywhere. Thailand does not have an integrated production system. We import a large amount of raw materials for the manufacturing of products for export as well as for local consumption.

Certainly, the Thai people will have to bear the brunt of higher oil prices caused by external and internal factors. The rate of inflation will be higher than what had been anticipated. The prices of goods and services also will be higher, with no exception for public utilities. With higher costs of production, manufacturers and traders will shift the burden to the consumer.

Several airline companies have already raised their fares. They argued that higher oil prices increased their operational costs. Thai Airways International also plans to raise its fares on international flights. Certainly, this will be followed by the increase in fares of domestic flights. Bus fares and other transport fees also will shoot up. Water, electricity, and telephone fees will increase.

We will have to struggle with this economic war in our everyday lives. With our low salaries, we will have to cope with the huge burden of feeding our families and repaying our debts. There is nothing else we can do. We must plan ahead now in order to make ends meet. We must be economical, otherwise we will not survive. We must curb expenses. For example, we must turn off the lights and television whenever we can to preserve electricity.

Unfortunately the government has been and is still preoccupied with its stability, instead of paying attention to this problem of high prices which is threatening the welfare of the people.

Rice Shipment to Iraq Withheld

BK1908015090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] In line with the UN Security Council's resolutional calling for international economic sanctions against Iraq, Thailand has decided to withhold its shipment of 90,000 tonnes of rice to the Gulf state, informed sources said.

The sources said government leaders, after weighing options presented by a foreign ministry's ad hoc committee, resolved to implement economic sanctions against Iraq, which invaded and has occupied Kuwait since early this month. "It took the government some time to decide how to carry out the sanctions because we have to take into consideration the safety of the more than 10,000 Thai workers in Iraq and Kuwait, which it occupies," one source said. The sources said the government decided that Thailand would freeze all trading interactions with both Iraq and Kuwait. They said the 90,000 tonnes of rice had initially been scheduled for delivery soon.

Thailand is also expected on Friday to close down its embassy in Kuwait City. But the embassy will be used as a centre to locate Thai workers in Kuwait and to arrange for their evacuation up until the last minute, according to the sources.

The UN resolution called for a wide range of actions, including a ban on all imports from and exports to Iraq and Kuwait as well as the prohibition of any transfer of funds to the two countries. All other members of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei—have carried out similar measures to comply with the UN resolution.

On Friday, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said Thailand today would begin the first mass evacuation of Thai workers from Kuwait which would involve about 200 Thai workers to be moved from the Thai embassy in Kuwait City to Jordan by way of Baghdad. The 200 workers, most of them women, have taken refuge in the embassy's compound in Kuwait City since the first days of the invasion, foreign ministry officials said. They said the situation at the embassy was worsening with water and food supplies running out, and some of the women were afraid for their safety. Thailand set up an evacuation centre in Jordan's capital city of Amman after Iraqi authorities agreed to allow Kuwait-based Thai workers leave the country through Baghdad.

Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan is expected to arrive in Bangkok from Saudi Arabia with about 50-60 Thai workers who had managed to travel across the border from Kuwait into Saudi Arabia. About 560 Thai workers have fled across the border from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia so far.

U.S. To Evacuate Thai Workers From Liberia

BK1708134590 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The Thai Government has asked the U.S. Government to help provide information about foreign workers remaining in Liberia and has asked them to include the 37 Thai workers still remaining in Liberia in its next evacuation plan for U.S. citizens from Monrovia. The U.S. Government has now informed that they have considered the Thai Government's request by considering the close relations between two countries and the two government's good cooperation on humanitarian affairs. The U.S. Government will accept the Thai Government's request as a special case, although their policy for the Liberia case is to only help evacuate foreign diplomats apart from U.S. citizens.

The U.S. Government has now given instructions to its Monrovia embassy to contact the company (BB Industry Company Limited) employing the Thai workers. The company still cannot be reached because the telephone system in Monrovia has been seriously damaged. The U.S. Government has instructed all U.S. citizens to gather at the U.S. Embassy and asked the Thai side to inform the Thai workers through all possible means to gather there as well. The U.S. Government also has

asked the Thai side for the workers' addresses. The Foreign Ministry has urgently sent the names of the workers to its U.S. counterpart. The public is hereby informed.

UNHCR Not Renewing Burmese Refugees' Status

BK1808060090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here has stopped issuing and renewing refugee status certificates to Burmese asylum-seekers in Thailand at the request of the Thai government, refugee workers said. Refugee workers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said yesterday the move has left several hundred Burmese, whom the UNHCR recognizes as refugees, without identification papers and facing the prospect of being deported by Thai authorities after being deemed illegal immigrants.

"The UNHCR was told by the Thai government to stop issuing and renewing any refugees status certificates to Burmese refugees late last year," a source said. The certificates must be renewed every six months which, in effect, means that all certificates have expired. The UNHCR has granted refugee status to about 300 Burmese so far. The source said the government was unhappy about the large number of Burmese exiles in Thailand who had been granted refugee status. Many of the exiles are political dissidents.

The majority of Burmese refugees fled to Thailand out of fear of persecution by the Rangoon military regime which assumed power after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy movements in September 1988. The Thai government has been in the process of improving relations with the Burmese junta led by Gen Saw Maung, which has been shunned by many Western countries for widespread human rights abuses.

As a result of closer contacts, particularly between military leaders on both sides, the Burmese government has allowed Thai companies to exploit Burma's rich natural resources by granting logging and fishing concessions. It is believed that the Thai government is trying to please the Rangoon government by banning the issuance of refugee certificates to Burmese refugees, many of whom are known to have been active in anti-Rangoon activities in Thailand.

Officials of foreign and interior ministries in charge of refugee affairs could not be reached for comment yesterday. However, the sources said UNHCR officials were negotiating with Thai authorities to find a solution to the problems facing Burmese refugees. They said they believed Thai authorities would eventually allow the UNHCR to resume issuing certificates. The sources said holders of expired certificates were still entitled to financial assistance—for housing, personal expenses and health care—from the UNHCR through various volunteer organizations.

Burmese refugees receive about Bt3,000 a month per person for housing and personal expenses because most do not have work permits and therefore cannot support themselves. Many refugees, whose certificates have expired, have been arrested by police and immigration officials but were released after UNHCR officials intervened by asking authorities not to file illegal immigration charges while the UNHCR is negotiating with the Thai government on the issue, according to a source.

Unidentified Thai Men Attack Burmese Students

BK1808060490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0518 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Bangkok, Aug 18 (AFP)—A Burmese student was feared dead and dozens were injured when they were attacked by a group of unidentified Thai men here, police said Saturday. About eight Thai men described by police as "hippie types" armed with sticks and knives raided a low-income apartment in the Hua Mark area, east of Bangkok, where several students live and attacked them Friday evening, witnesses said. Nine of the students, including one who was feared dead after being stabbed with a broken bottle, were abducted after the clash. Their fate was still unknown.

The incident left Burmese students in the area, who have all been recognized as refugees by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), scared and puzzled in the wake of a report that the Thai Government is attempting to place them in a border camp as illegal immigrants. The group attacked several students before taking them to the police station and asking the police to arrest the "illegal immigrants," the students said. The students told police that they did not know who the men were or why they attacked them. Witnesses who lived nearby told a reporter that the group had asked them before raiding the apartment whether Burmese students lived there. Police, unaware of the incident at the time because of communication difficulties, released the students and did not arrest the attackers.

The Thai men then returned to the apartment and launched another violent attack in which one of them stabbed Nyi Nyi Aung, 24, before putting him in a bag and carrying him away in a pickup truck along with eight other battered students, the witnesses told police. One student said none of several witnesses had managed to alert the police. The other injured students were sent to hospital for treatment, police said.

A diplomat who has closely monitored Burmese students in Thailand said he suspected the attack could be a part of the plan to evacuate a number of Burmese students currently sheltered in Bangkok to a border camp. "The fact that the students' lives are threatened could make a good reason to evacuate the student asylum-seekers to a border camp," he said. Diplomats say the Thai Government is planning to build border camps for Burmese students regarded as illegal immigrants and not political refugees pending repatriation.

In a corroborated report, the English-language daily THE NATION on Saturday quoted a UNHCR source as saying that the Thai Government asked UNHCR officials to stop awarding and renewing refugee status to Burmese asylum-seekers in Thailand. Hundreds would become illegal immigrants as a result. The UNHCR has granted refugee status to about 300 Burmese, who, because they are not allowed to work, each receive about 3,000 baht (120 dollars) a month.

The Thai Government has begun a rapprochement with the internationally condemned Burmese military regime which has allowed Thai companies to exploit Burma's abundant natural resources.

Most Burmese refugees in Thailand fled here out of fear of persecution by the Rangoon military junta, which came to power after a coup to crack down on the September 1988 pro-democracy movement.

Arms for Minorities Seized Near Burmese Border

BK1608174390 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The provincial police of Sangkhla Buri District, Kanchanaburi Province have seized a number of war weapons from arms smugglers. At 1400 today the commander of the Provincial Police Region 3 reported on the arrest of arms smugglers at a checkpoint on the Thong Pha Phum-Sangkhla Buri highway near the Burmese border. The search of a pickup truck, which carried a Yasothon Province license plate, found 13 AKA rifles, 5 RPG's, an 81-mm mortar, and 10 boxes of AKA ammunition. Three people on the truck were arrested. They confessed that they transported the weapons and ammunition from Sisaket Province on the eastern border for sale to minority groups near the western border.

The police officer noted that from May to August there were arrests involving three major gun running incidents and the seizure of many war weapons.

Joint Hydroelectric Projects Planned With Burma

BK1908073090 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Thailand and Myanmar [Burma] have agreed to seek assistance from Japan and the Asian Development Bank to support their joint development of two hydroelectric projects. The secretary general of the National Energy Administration, Mr. Praphat Premmani, said that the assistance will finance feasibility studies of the Sai River hydroelectric development project in the northern province of Chiang Rai and the Kra Buri River project in the southern province of Ranong.

The feasibility studies are expected to be completed by the end of next year, and construction of the two projects, to be carried out along the Thai-Myanmar border, will be completed in 1995. The Sai River project will have a capacity of 20,000 kilowatts and the Kra Buri River project will have 150,000 kilowatts. Both countries also agreed to carry out five other joint energy development projects.

The seven projects will have a combined capacity of 7.1 million kilowatts covering an area of 11 million rai. The secretary general said that the two countries will hold a meeting in Rangoon in November to consider all the joint development projects.

Thai, Malaysian Police To Share Intelligence

BK1808020090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The Thai-Malaysian working group on criminal activities agreed yesterday that the seizure of smuggled firearms and the recovery of stolen property will be reported immediately by either side to the other and that the same procedure will apply in the case of wanted criminals.

The senior delegates from the two countries also pledged to continue to exchange information and closely cooperate in tracing criminals who flee into each other's territories.

The meeting, the third of its kind in southern province of Phuket started on August 15 and will end today. It was hosted by the Thai Police Department.

The Thai delegation was led by Director General Pol Gen [police general] Sawaeng Thirasawat while the Malaysian delegation was headed by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamed Haniff Omar.

The agenda covered different areas of criminal activities along the border areas of Thailand and Malaysia:

—Smuggling of firearms from Thailand into Malaysia;
—Fugitives from the law taking refuge in each other's countries;
—The deportation of Thai-Malaysian nationals back to their homeland upon release from prisons;
—Smuggling of stolen property from Malaysia into Thailand and vice versa;
—Crimes committed partly in Thailand and partly in Malaysia; and,
—The abduction of Thai children for sale in Malaysia.

As a step to further increase effectiveness in curbing such criminal activities, the meeting agreed that all intelligence received would be channelled to the National Central Bureau (NCB/INTERPOL) Malaysia-Thailand and vice versa for appropriate action.

Thai, Lao Generals Agree on Border, Issues

BK1708143990 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong and Gen. Sisavat Keobounphan, visiting chief of Lao People's Army General Staff, agreed on several

issues during their meeting held at the Supreme Command Headquarters. They agreed to the expansion of relations and greater economic, trade, investment, communication, public health, education, cultural, and tourism cooperation. They also concurred on the need to accelerate a resolution to the border problem, especially in the Boten-Chat Trakan District border area, and to suppress criminal activities by terrorists and armed Lao exiles. The Thai and Lao Armed Forces have also agreed to exchange military attaches and tackle the problem involving Lao refugees in Thailand through the office of the UN High Commissioner of Refugees.

Gen. Sunthon said Thailand has given various forms of assistance to Laos, but the refugee problem and demarcation of the border will take a long time to solve.

[Begin recording] [Sunthon] Thailand has assisted Laos in many fields. We have been the giving party. What we have received from Laos have been intangible things, such as their moral attachment, demonstrated by the way the Lao people were impressed with Prince Sirinthon's visit. This is a big plus.

[Reporter] Do you think Laos will try to avoid dealing with the border demarcation process?

[Sunthon] No. This will be all for today.

[Reporter] It will be time consuming, right?

[Sunthon] Yes, it will, because the disputed area is more than 100 km long. [end recording]

Joint Border Task Force With Laos Planned

BK1908080090 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Thailand and Laos have agreed to set up a joint task force to suppress crimes and illegal cross-border activities. The agreement was part of the conclusion of another round of talks between Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong and Chief of the Laotian Military Supreme Staff General Sisavat Keobounphan, who ended his four-day visit to Thailand yesterday.

Gen. Sunthon said that the Thai Army Region may assign the commander of the 4th Division to take charge of the task force on the Thai side. The location of the headquarters of the Joint Thai-Lao Task Force will be decided later on. Both sides agreed to accelerate demarcation of the border between Chattrakan District of Phitsanulok Province and Sayaboury's Muang Boten in Laos.

Laos will contact the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees on the repatriation of Laotian refugees within a definite time frame. Both countries will exchange military attaches to station in each other's country in the near future.

In addition, Thailand and Laos also agreed to expand their cooperation in trade, economy, investment, communications, public health, education, culture, and tourism.

Former Army Chief Meets With Japanese Group

BK1908014490 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] A delegation of Japanese MPs [members of Parliament] met former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut for two hours yesterday at his Suan Pudtan residence.

Gen Chawalit later said the delegation of ruling Liberal Democratic party MPs led by Matsuo Watanabe discussed Cambodia, trade cooperation and the upcoming Uruguay Round with him. Gen Chawalit, also a former deputy prime minister and defence minister, said he briefed the Japanese on new developments as well as discussed what he saw as possible steps to be taken. "I told them the Cambodian problem should not run into too many new obstacles and should be resolved quickly with a meeting of the four Khmer factions being arranged in Jakarta soon," Gen Chawalit said.

Apparently referring to China, Gen Chawalit said some nations were dissatisfied with the Tokyo meeting and there were some "small problems" with this. However, he had visited Beijing and established an understanding with them, the general said. He added that the prime minister's personal advisers had been working hard on the issue.

Yesterday morning Gen Chawalit was also visited by a group of 60 teachers from the South led by Phrom Chantharat, president of the Southern Teachers Association. The general, who is also a special adviser to the Armed Forces, said the teachers were concerned for their safety, adding that he would visit the South soon to look at the problem.

He said he would also meet Muslim leaders to discuss the Kruze mosque incident and lese majeste charges against some local Muslim leaders. "The important thing to do to solve problems in the South is to eliminate mutual suspicion (between authorities and Thai Muslims). If that can be done then other problems can be solved," he said.

He said representative of some non-governmental organisations and development foundations would accompany him to the South. They could play a key role in the balanced development of the region and could also help in the Harappan Baru and Green Isan projects, he said. Gen Chawalit said the two projects which he initiated were making progress even after his retirement.

Asked about his political plans, the general said a person who wanted to become a "professional politician" had to enter politics through a proper channel and had to be able to work with others. "Otherwise you just go in and

make enemies. If that is to be the case you might as well stay out and fight them outside," Gen Chawalit said.

Asked about allegations of widespread corruption in the government, Gen Chawalit said, "Just wait and see. The prime minister will do something outstanding for us to see. I know him."

Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong also met Gen Chawalit for about 20 minutes yesterday. Gen Sunthon said later he came only to bid his friend goodbye because he was leaving for a two-week Chinook helicopter flying course in the United States.

Asked about reports that Gen Chawalit and his military friends were planning to run for the House of Representatives, Gen Sunthon said he did not have any such plan but would support his friends if they did.

Expansion of Air Links With SRV Agreed

BK2008021190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Aug 90 p 30

[Text] Thailand and Vietnam have agreeed to expand air links, Civil Aviation Department Deputy Director-General Rungrot Siprasoetsuk has announced.

After two days of talks in Ho Chi Minh City last week, both parties agreed to increase flights from October 28 to handle increasing tourism and business, which has been growing by about 100 percent per year in the past few years.

Under the agreement, Thai [Thai Airways International] has been granted one more flight, making four flights to Ho Chi Minh City each week, using Airbus A300s with a capacity of 223 seats.

In return, Air Vietnam has been granted four more flights, making 14 per week, using TU 134s with 70 seats.

Chatchai Urged To Take Responsibility for Santi

BK1808133190 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 18 Aug 90 p 5

[Editorial: "The Prime Minister Should Resign"]

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan hinted that the dismissal of Deputy Interior Minister Santi Chaiwirattana would not affect the status of the government and that there is no need for him to resign. He said that the problem of Santi was a personal matter, and he defended his move as the right approach to save the government, saying it was like cutting off a bad finger.

The prime minister's view is not correct. Santi was sacked because he abused his power as deputy interior minister, a member in the present Cabinet. It was not an offense of only an individual. The responsibility lies with the person who selected him as a Cabinet member. That means that the leader of the Social Action Party, the party's executives, the prime minister, and the board members of the coalition parties which endorsed the Cabinet list prior to submission to his majesty for royal approval, are responsible. The prime minister should, therefore, admit his responsibility, as should the Social Action Party. They cannot make Santi a scapegoat, bearing the responsibility all alone.

In civilized countries, it is impossible for a government to survive under such circumstances. A situation like this would be condemned by public opinion for lacking political etiquette. For example, if this happened in Great Britain, the mother of democracy, the politicians involved would be sacked and the prime minister, who appointed the Cabinet ministers, would have to display a sense of responsiblity by giving back to the people the mandate to chose a new government. It is not good for democracy if the government insists on holding onto power stubbornly. The people will lose faith in the democratic system and that would lead to ensuing problems.

Deputy Dismissal Viewed

BK1608160990

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-language dailies, THAI RAT, SIAM RAT, and MATICHON, on 16 August carry one editorial each on the removal of Deputy Interior Minister Santi Chaiwirattana from the cabinet.

The 500-word THAI RAT editorial on page 3 titled: "Party Damaging Country," notes that Santi's recent exposure is very interesting. Santi exposed information that the Social Action Party leadership has set a target to raise a huge total of 500 million baht for the party fund for use in party activities, and has assigned all of its ministers in the Chatchai Chunhawan government to solicit the money. The paper says Santi's accusations are probably true, because many traders and the private sector have complained that "politicians and government officials under the leadership of the present government are shamelessly seeking benefits for themselves." The policy of raising funds for the party must be used in many parties, the editorial says.

Such acts of searching for benefit are a sign of grave danger for the country and people. In the end, the private citizens will have to shoulder all the burdens passed from traders and those who have to pay to make their businesses proceed smoothly, the paper concludes.

The 400-word editorial on page 8 of SIAM RAT titled: "It's Time to Consider Itself," points out that the dismissal of Santi will not help correct the image of the Chatchai Government. The discretion of the coalition parties in voting to support Santi in the no-confidence debate has proven wrong. Therefore, they should show a greater sense of responsibility.

"We want to confirm that the dismissal of Santi Chaiwirattana will not help polish the government's image. The government must show more responsibility for this matter. It must resign so the parliament can form a new

government. This is because the shameful incident not only involves Santi, but also the government," the paper concludes.

MATICHON's 2,000-word editorial on page 8 entitled: "The Santi-Social Action Party Case: Exposure of the Gathering of Various Types of People," gives background on the Santi dismissal and cites his accusations against senior members of his own party. The paper notes there is sufficient evidence for police to file a lawsuit against the minister. It says although Santi has tried in vain to defend himself, he has exposed the vicious act of corruption in a coalition party.

"The sacking of Santi from the cabinet and the Social Action Party could not suddenly make the party politically genuine," the paper points out.

The editorial says the case of Santi and his party has reflected a "serious weak point" in the government, which is not really democratic. One bad thing is each party in the coalition government has used its advantage as an administrator to gain benefits for the party.

Following Santi's dismissal, a cabinet reshuffle looks very much possible, but the question is: "Will other parties be willing to allow the Social Action Party to remain in the coalition?"

Prime Minister Pledges To Combat Corruption

BK1708020990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said yesterday he will pay more attention to alleged widespread corruption in his government and pledged to take prompt action against any Cabinet members found to be involved in graft.

But Chatchai dismissed his former deputy Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut's comment that the situation would become "dangerous" if corruption in the government was allowed to go on unchecked.

"Not at all, because the government is serious in its anti-corruption campaign," the premier said. He did not elaborate.

Chatchai tried to play down the impact the bribery charges against former deputy interior minister Santi Chaiwirattana might have on his government. The premier said he sacked Santi at the recommendation of the Social Action Party [SAP] leader Sitthi Sawetsila.

The premier said his immediate response to Sitthi's request showed that his government was serious about curbing corruption in its ranks.

The government's popularity, he asserted, should not be shaken by the scandal, saying it was up to the court of justice to decide whether Santi is guilty of taking bribes from liquified petroleum gas station operators to relax safety regulations.

"This is the way of politics. There are always ups and downs," he said.

After the Interior Ministry decided to bring formal charges against the former deputy minister, Chatchai said he decided to sack Santi from the Cabinet so that he could not use his position to influence the legal proceedings against him.

"We never protect anyone. Indeed we removed him from duty when his integrity was questioned," he said.

Chatchai said he would personally question other Cabinet members who were implicated in corruption.

The premier said he had questioned Deputy Interior Minister Watthana Atssawahem, who has been accused by the Palang Dharma Party of abusing his authority to have the National Housing Authority, which is under his jurisdiction, sell land and homes to Rassadorn Party MPs [members of parliament] at cheap prices.

Chatchai quoted Watthana as saying he did not commit any of the alleged offences.

But Chatchai did not say whether he was convinced of Watthana's claimed innocence nor did he say how he would follow up his inquiry.

The premier also declined to comment on Santi's allegation that SAP ministers were told to raise money for the party by any means—including accepting bribes.

Industry Ministry Praman Adireksan, Chat Thai Party chairman, said it was unfair for critics to predict that the scandal involving Santi would undermine the government's stability.

He said the matter should be left to police, public prosecutors and the court.

Praman also said the scandal would not lead to a Cabinet reshuffle.

Deputy Interior Minister Sano Thianthong, also a Chat Thai member, said Santi's allegation about his party's fundraising tactics did not reflect the practice of other government parties.

"I have been in politics for 15 years and I have never been told by my party to raise money for it. I don't want to comment on what I think of his accusation but it is the business of the SAP to clear itself of the charges," Sano said. Other related developments yesterday:

—Social Action leader Sitthi said he did not lend credence to speculation that the bribery scandal involving Santi would create a rift between his party and the ruling Chat Thai Party.

Sitthi said he had detected no indication that Chat Thai wanted to remove SAP from the ruling coalition.

"I don't think that is possible because the premier never mentioned it at all," he said.

—A group of SAP MPs who actively campaigned for Santi's ouster from the party and the Cabinet had received death threats in anonymous telephone calls, they said.

The MPs were Niran Namuangrak (Roi Et), Bowon Pucharit (Kalasin), Kuson Mithep (Sukhothai), Wiwatthanachai Na Kalasin (Kalasin) and Somsak Thepsuthin (Sukhothai). All of them received similar death threats at their residences.

Niran told a news conference the party had taken the correct step in amending the party charter to ensure the expulsion of the former minister from the party. The amendment must be approved by the Interior Ministry before it can be enforced against Santi.

—Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun said he had instructed the director of the Elections Division to consider approving the amendment to the SAP regulations as soon as possible.

The ministry will fix the date for a by-election without delay if Santi lost his SAP membership, automatically depriving him of his seat in the House of Representatives, the permanent secretary said.

Army Commander Receives Southern Muslim Leaders

BK1708151090 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] This afternoon Muslim leaders from five southern border provinces called on Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun at the Army Meeting Hall to discuss the Army's part in resolution of problems in the South and receive a briefing on the army commander's policy, which calls for religious groups to share responsibility in resolution of problems. The visitors were led by Winai Sama-un, secretary to the Muslim spiritual leader in Thailand.

The visitors explained the problems in the south which include lack of understanding and trust between government servants and local Muslims and the teaching of Thai language, which Thai Muslims feel is causing them to lose their local language.

The Army commander asked the Muslim leaders to explain to the local Muslims that learning the Thai language will benefit them in that they will be more informed in all areas, which will help prevent their being exploited by other people. He also asked them to beware of instigation by third parties who try to blame all problems on religious differences.

The Muslim leaders reported on the progress of the New Hope project, which they said has considerably improved the livelihood and safety of the local people.

Muslim Separatist Dies Setting Bomb on Railway

BK1708171290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1620 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Bangkok, Aug 17 (AFP)—A Moslem separatist was killed when a bomb he was planting exploded prematurely Thursday in southern Thailand, local police said Friday.

Police arrested two suspected terrorists and recovered some detonators when they searched the dead man's rented house in the Rushoh District of Narathiwat Province, nearly 1,200 kilometers (700 miles) south of here. The two men, whom police declined to identify, were taken for questioning.

The attack took place at the Rusoh District railway station. Train services were disrupted for about three hours while the train workers repaired the damage to the track. When police arrived shortly after the explosion they found the mutilated body of the man identified as 24-year-old Sulaiman Malateh. They found 11 letters demanding money from local businessmen and villagers on his body.

Police said they believed the bomb exploded accidentally while Mr. Malateh and some other separatists of the outlawed Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) were planting it on the north-south railway. The other bombers may have been injured in the explosion but they managed to escape, added police.

The PULO is active in the five southernmost provinces of Thailand bordering Malaysia. The separatists are battling Thai troops in a bid to set up a Moslem state in four of the provinces—Yala, Pattani, Satun and Narathiwat. Moslems form a 95 per cent majority in Thailand's southernmost provinces, but they are an overall minority within the country's overwhelmingly Buddhist population of some 56 million.

Couple Arrested With 3 Kg of Heroin

BK1808015090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Aug 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Anti-narcotics police arrested a couple suspected of being major drug dealers in the eastern region and seized from them three kilogrammes of heroin yesterday in the suburban Samut Prakan province.

The arrest of Muen Namthong, 54, and Juinai Damrongcharoen, 51, is the result of a follow-up operation of the July 5 drug haul in which police seized 26 kilogrammes of heroin. They also captured a suspected courier in Sri Racha district of Chon Buri province in the same raid, said Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Deputy Secretary General Payon Pansri. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Vietnamese Found Hoarding U.S. MIA Corpses

BK1708133790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 17 (AFP)—Six families in Ho Chi Minh City recently produced the remains of 722 people they believed to be U.S. soldiers Missing in Action (MIA) since the Vietnam war, the LAO DONG weekly newspaper said Friday.

They wanted to exchange the bodies for U.S. visas and were also asking 10,000 dollars for each set of remains, the trade union paper said, adding that the families had kept the bodies at their homes for six years.

It did not specify how the families acquired the bodies.

Only one U.S. soldier's name was found on the lists handed over by the families, the paper said, adding that a team of U.S. scientists had been invited to examine the remains.

Five such U.S. teams are now in Vietnam for the 11th joint investigation of MIAs since September 1988, under an agreement between Hanoi and Washington.

U.S. officials say there are 2,353 MIAs in Indochina: 1,719 in Vietnam, 545 in Laos, 83 in Cambodia and six in China.

Last July, a Ho Chi Minh City court condemned two people to hard labour for keeping 446 sets of human remains to barter for U.S. visas.

U.S. sources here said that to date, some 60 sets of remains had been identified as those of U.S. soldiers out of about 250 that have been returned by the Vietnamese.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Delegation To Visit

BK1708130590 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Vice President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (Samuel Mond) said a U.S. delegation consisting of 25 members will come to study the Vietnam's market from 7-17 October this year. The delegation will make contact with officials of the Vietnamese Ministry of Trade and representatives of investors.

He said the United States cannot impose an embargo against Vietnam forever. The U.S. must take the opportunity to work with Vietnam and we are ready to act when the embargo is lifted.

Chairman Do Muoi Receives U.S. Officials

BK1908153390 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 19—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received here today Senator Richard Lugar, member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Representative David Dreier, and C. Kartman, State Department official.

The two sides exchanged views on issues of common concern in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Also present at the reception were Senator R. Lugar's wife and a number of assistants to the U.S. State Department.

Indian Ambassador Speaks on Independence Day

BK1708163990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Statement by Indian Ambassador to Vietnam Sharma in Hanoi in connection with India's 43d Independence Day, dealing with "achievements scored by India and its friendly relations with Vietnam"—recorded in English fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] "On the happy occasion of the 43d anniversary of India's Independence Day, I bring to the heroic people of Vietnam warm greetings from friendly people of India."

Like the Vietnamese, "the Indian people fought colonialism and foreign domination. Mahatma Gandhi and Ho Chi Minh, the supreme leaders of the two countries, demonstrated to the world that even the mightiest imperialist cannot contain the people's power."

At the time of India's independence, the average life span of the Indian people was 27. Now their life span has increased to 59. At that time, India could only produce 50 million tons of cereal a year. Now it can produce over 173 million tons. Also, at that time, Indian students had to go abroad for higher education. Now, India is welcoming thousands of students from various developed countries for schooling. Thanks to its persistent efforts, India now has the world's third largest contingent of scientists. When India first regained its independence, it had to import everything ranging from sewing needles to razor blades. Now its annual export value stands at 157 billion rupees or US$10 billion. India's exports cover a wide range of goods including aviation, telecommunications, and railway equipment, sophisticated machine tools, and precision instruments.

"In order to further enhance our friendly relations with Vietnam, we attach importance to the contents of the trade relations between the two countries. The (Onido) corporation has participated in the oil exploration off the Vietnamese coast. India has also provided Vietnam with locomotives, rail cars, tea processing machines, and mechanical merchandise under the Indian Government's credit sale system. We wish to promptly finalize a trade protocol with the Vietnamese Government in order to further enhance other economic relations and serve as a model for South-South cooperation.

"The year 1990 is marked by many achievements in Indo-Vietnamese relations. The visit to Vietnam by

Indian Minister for External Affairs Gujral to preside over the fourth conference of the Joint Indo-Vietnamese Committee marks a new development in the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

"In order to show our admiration for President Ho Chi Minh and Mr. Nehru, the architect of Indo-Vietnamese friendship, we have set up a committee with the Indian premier as its chairman to organize the celebration of the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh, a great leader. A big avenue in New Delhi has been named after President Ho Chi Minh. India has also issued special postal stamps to mark this occasion.

"We have increased the training of Vietnamese experts in India. Every year, over 100 Vietnamese students come to India to attend various colleges. Perhaps, the cultural relations between the two countries have developed more vigorously than ever before in history. The two countries have taken steps to consolidate these relations."

Indian Premier V.P. Singh has correctly assessed that our relations today are characteristic of closer understanding. "This understanding is reflected through the unity of views over various major issues in the region as well as in the world. There are great prospects for the broadening of cooperation between us."

We hope the friendship between the two countries "will be further enhanced."

11 Imprisoned for Political, Religious Activities

BK1708140890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 17 (AFP)—A court in Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh City sentenced 11 people to prison Thursday for illegal political and religious activities, the Saigon GIAI PHONG newspaper reported Friday.

The stiffest sentences went to a man and a woman, Nguyen Van De and Nguyen Thi Nhi, jailed for 10 and eight years respectively for spreading "counter-revolutionary propaganda through religious activities."

The daily did not specify their religion, but there is a sizeable Roman Catholic community in southern Vietnam, where two priests were placed under restrictive surveillance a few months ago for anti-government activities.

The other nine people received sentences ranging from six years in prison to two years suspended, following a two-day trial, the official daily said.

The 11 were also to have their civil rights suspended for two to four years upon completion of their jail terms.

It was the first time that Vietnam's official press had reported a trial for political activities since authorities launched a new law-and-order campaign in May.

Authorities have repeatedly denounced in the last few months an alleged "plot by imperialists and Vietnamese reactionaries" to destabilize the communist government.

The southern daily said the accused had "admitted their acts of sabotage against the national policy (of union) and their propaganda aimed at falsely portraying Vietnam's religious policy."

The paper suggested that the court had handed down light sentences "because of the limited consequences" of the illegal acts "and the sincerity of the guilty."

The report came as the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee opened a meeting here largely to discuss the political program to submit during the next party congress in 1991.

In the last several months, Vietnam's official press has been full of warnings against any attempts to destabilize the government and strong criticism of attempts to introduce multi-party politics.

Hanoi has condemned East Europe's democratic reforms and has affirmed its intention to maintain a socialist system in Vietnam.

Religious Group Identified

BK1708135490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 17 Aug 90

[From the review of Hanoi press for 17 August]

[Text] On 15 and 16 August the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court held a lower-court trial of a group of people on the charge of taking advantage of their religion to spread propaganda against the revolutionary administration and the socialist regime. They called themselves the "Small Soul Organization" and the "High-Tide Movement of Maria Catholic Priests."

NHAN DAN Marks August Revolution Anniversary

BK2008051590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Aug 90

[18 August NHAN DAN editorial: "A Source of Strong Encouragement to Our Cause of Renovation"]

[Text] This day 45 years ago, in a heroic atmosphere of insurrection, our people shook off slavery and rose up to become masters of the country, thereby ushering in the era of national independence and freedom and building the first worker-peasant state in Southeast Asia. The glorious victory of the August Revolution, which smashed the reactionary administration of the fascists, colonialists, and feudalists within two weeks and established a complete system of people's power from the central to grass-roots level, was a brilliant red-letter day in the modern history of our Vietnamese nation. That victory created basic conditions for the subsequent

development of the Vietnamese Revolution along the line of socialism in conformity with the inevitable trend of our time.

The August Revolution reflected the earth-shaking strength of our people, who resolutely rose up to take bold and courageous action under the correct, timely, and creative leadership of the vanguard party and great President Ho Chi Minh. They created a great opportunity and made the most of it, motivated by the deep understanding that nothing is more precious than independence and freedom.

Over the past 45 years, since the August Revolution, our people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], have continued to embark on a long path of struggle full of difficulties and hardships. They have recorded resounding exploits in the wars of resistance against colonialist and imperialist aggressors and have fulfilled the glorious historic mission of completely liberating the country and reunifying the homeland, thereby taking the entire country to socialism.

This year's celebrations of several great anniversaries—the 60th anniversary of the CPV's founding, President Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary, and the 45th anniversary of the August Revolution and the 2 September National Day—take on a deep and great significance and create a strong moving force of tradition and spiritual strength which encourages and inspires us to firmly believe in the leading party and in the people, who are ardently patriotic by tradition. We must clearly realize our responsibility in light of the present situation of our country, strongly push forward the development of the situation in the positive direction, and create the premises for further development in subsequent years.

This year, the celebration of the August Revolution anniversary is taking place at a time when our entire party, people, and army are making every effort to implement the resolution of the sixth party congress and other resolutions of the party Central Committee in truly satisfactory manner, introducing the extensive renovation process into life, and scoring new successes in all fields to stabilize the political and socioeconomic situation. The drafting of the party's new program, the strategy for socioeconomic development until 2000, and the orientation and tasks of the 5-year 1991-1995 socioeconomic development plan are being carried out urgently. Many important and major tasks are being undertaken from the grass roots up to the central level in preparation for the seventh national party congress.

The great lessons of the August Revolution are providing a source of strong encouragement to various sectors, localities, units, party organizations, and to the people throughout the country, inspiring them to bring into play their spirit of self-reliance and their sense of unity and singlemindedness, and to show their unshakable will in order to surmount all difficulties, exploit the achievements already recorded in the renovation process, and contribute as best they can to the cause of defending, building, and developing the country along the socialist line.

The glorious victory of the August Revolution has shown that, no matter how difficult and complex the situation may be, an earth-shaking aggregate strength can still be created to achieve ever greater success for the revolutionary cause if we have a correct line and effective measures, if the entire party stays united and single-minded, and if the entire country acts as one man and in a well-coordinated manner.

To mark the 45th August Revolution anniversary in a practical way, let our party and people firmly unite; unify their views, their thoughts, and their actions; carry out all concrete tasks in a truly satisfactory manner; firmly maintain political security and public order; effectively develop production and business in the right direction; observe the law and discipline; and resolutely revamp and purify the party ranks in order to effect radical changes in the socioeconomic situation in the progressive direction.

We should pay utmost attention to satisfactorily implementing various social welfare policies, creating jobs for workers, effectively enforcing the birth control policy, improving the environment, fully practicing the various welfare policies for the benefit of the families that have rendered meritorious services to the revolution, families of fallen heroes, and war invalids, as well as the army welfare policies.

The viewpoint of considering the people as the roots and the human strategy require that each party member and committee echelon, each cadre and organ, and each social organization have a deep understanding of the feelings and aspirations of the people, correctly follow the mass line, and satisfactorily organize the people's movement for revolutionary action. These are also practical deeds aimed at contributing to the preparation of the seventh national party congress, scheduled for around mid-1991, thereby enabling it to achieve fine results and taking the cause of renovation another step forward and to new and important achievements for the people's prosperity and happiness.

Customs Service Holds Anti-Smuggling Symposium

BK1808144990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] A symposium on suppressing cross-border smuggling was organized by the customs service from 15-17 August to set forth orientations, tasks, and measures for intensifying customs control throughout the country in the days ahead.

So far, especially since early 1987, smuggling and the illegal circulation of goods and currency have increased drastically in the border areas.

The business of smuggling involves well-organized groups composed of many different components. Many serious cases have been discovered. For example, one can cite the case of Vessel VT-05 An Giang being caught in Thanh Phu, Ben Tre Province while trying to smuggle in goods worth 4 billion dong. In 1989 alone, dozens of tons of gold, tens of thousands of tons of raw materials, and hundreds of thousands of tons of aquatic products worth more than 100 billion dong were smuggled in or out of the country. Smugglers have also helped dump large quantities of decadent and reactionary materials into our country, adversely affecting political security.

Faced with such a situation, the customs service has worked together with the administrative organs at all levels in intensifying antismuggling activities. Over the past three years and more, customs control forces have discovered more than 20,000 cases of cross-border smuggling. In 1989, the customs officials at Noi Bai and Tan Son Nhat airports discovered more than 1 million U.S. dollars and 1,000 taels of gold being illegally brought into the country. The customs officials at Noi Bai airport alone discovered 83 cases involving the smuggling of 631 artifacts intended for sale as antiques.

The conference set forth the orientations and tasks for the days to come as follows: All antismuggling activities must benefit party and state foreign policies and external economic relations. Efforts must be concentrated on discovering major organized smuggling networks and on dealing accurate blows to the ringleaders. In this way, conditions will exist for drawing the experiences necessary to wage a long-term struggle against professional smugglers. To this end, each locality must complete its anti-smuggling strategy by the end of 1990.

Council Chairman Cited on Imported Car Tax

BK1708090190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 15 Aug 90

[From the press review for 15 August]

[Text] In its "Response To Things That Must Be Done Immediately" column, NHAN DAN carries the view of the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the import of 250 cars via Laos by the Equipment and Machine Parts General Corporation of the former Ministry of Supply. This has been reported earlier in the press.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers has asked the Ministry of Finance to collect a retroactive tax on the import of these cars and on similar ones which the ministry had taxed only minimally.

State organs must look into this case and determine which units and individuals have violated state stipulations. They must also ask the Ministry of Finance to publicly answer questions already raised by the press after the investigation of the 250 cars import case ends.

Tax Laws Made Public at Hanoi News Conference

BK1708082590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The Office of the National Assembly and Council of State held a news conference in Hanoi this afternoon to make public the laws on turnover tax, special consumption tax, and income tax which was passed at the seventh session of the Eighth National Assembly. Minister of Finance Hoang Quy pointed out some of the main points contained in these tax laws.

The newly promulgated law on turnover tax will be applied comprehensively to all state and nonstate economic components and private organizations engaged in production, construction, transportation, trade, food and beverage sellers, and service activities. Other business activities that can produce revenues are also required to pay turnover tax.

As a new type of tax, turnover tax replaces the four types of taxes currently in force: business tax, tax imposed on traders bringing goods from one locality for sale in another locality, commodity tax previously applied to a certain number of goods, and income tax applied to state enterprises.

Special consumption tax is a new type of tax that replaces commodity tax and is also a type of income tax that is included in selling prices. This tax, however, is applied to only a small number of goods the consumption of which requires an intensive adjustment. The number of goods subject to special commodity tax will be reduced, from 22 to six groups of items. These include cigarettes, liquor of various kinds, beer of various kinds, firecrackers, playing cards, and paper articles used in ancestral rituals.

Income tax—a type of direct-collection tax—is aimed at amassing part of the incomes of various economic organizations and individuals engaged in production and business activies. The new law on income tax will replace the current income taxation system applied to nonstate economic units, as well as the current revenue distribution system applied to state economic units. Income tax is not applicable to activities falling under a category that is subject to income taxation in accordance with the law on foreign investment in Vietnam, as well as to agricultural production activities that have already been subject to agricultural taxation.

Speaking at the news conference, Minister Hoang Quy said: Under our social system, tax payment is an undertaking of the entire people, an obligation and a responsibility of every citizen, and also the honorable interest of those who pay taxes in contribution to national construction and defense. It is the responsibility of all state agencies, social organizations, armed forces units, and citizens to correctly implement all tax laws, as well as to assist tax organs and tax cadres in carrying out their duties.

Problems of Unemployment, Labor Export Reported

BK2008011190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Aug 90 p 8

[Kawi Chongkitthawon report from Hanoi]

[Text] Faced with widespread unemployment at home, the Vietnamese government has taken measures to help the 6 million men and women without steady jobs including the export of Vietnamese labour.

"It is a serious problem which needs to be dealt with without delay," said Phan Khac Hai, editor-in-chief of the Army newspaper, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

Of the 6 million, about 1.5 million young people including 120,000 former soldiers and 60,000-70,000 graduate students are currently unemployed, according to a survey carried out last year by the General Department of Statistics.

Earlier this year, the government initiated and implemented a series of measures to reduce the unemployment rate, which included the expansion of multi-sector industry, more freedom and incentives to artisans and handicraftmen, populated rural areas and encouraged small and private enterprises.

Besides these measures, the government also plans to increase the export of skilled Vietnamese labour to non-communist countries, according to Nghiem Xuan Tue, vice director of international relations of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. At present, the majority of Vietnamese workers overseas are working in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Tue admitted that the government currently looks to labour export as one of the most viable means to tackle the unemployment problem because it does not require any capital investment to create new jobs.

For instance, to create a job in the heavy industrial sector, it would cost the government at least 5 million dongs. A job in the light industrial sector would require 3 million dongs. Less expensive is a job in the service sector that costs only 800,000 dongs.

Given the limited budget and economic hardship presently borne by the government, Tue said the government has chosen to invest in vocational institutions around the country.

Currently, a total of 200,000 Vietnamese are working abroad—one-fourth are women. About 120,000 are concentrated in industrial Eastern Europe and the remaining 80,000 are in the Soviet Union.

In Eastern Europe, 60,000 Vietnamese workers are holding jobs in factories in East Germany, 22,000 in Czechoslovakia, 14,000 in Bulgaria and several hundreds are working in Hungary and Poland. Fifteen thousand of the 20,000 in the Middle East are now working in Iraq with the rest in Libya.

However, swift changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have had their impact on the labour situation because of the new governments installed there. Tue said that protocol on labour with these countries have to be reviewed, which will cut down on the number of Vietnamese workers there.

The labour agreement with East Germany will expire in 1994 and the one with Bulgaria in 1992. One-fifth of the 60,000 Vietnamese workers in East Germany will return to Vietnam after the reunification that will occur within this year.

Tue was reluctant to discuss the reasons why they returned home. He said after the changes in the economic management of East Germany,many state-run factories collapsed and the Vietnamese employed there had to come back home.

"For the next three years, however, the current number of workers in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union would be maintained," he said.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union have recently concluded a labour protocol to allow the Vietnamese workers to stay in the country and improve their living conditions. For example, Vietnamese workers will not be sent to work in areas affected by the Chernobyl's nuclear incident in 1986.

With the on-going perestroyka policy in the Soviet Union, there are job opportunities for the Vietnamese, Tue said.

Although Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs is pondering ways to increase the export of Vietnamese labour—which is now stands at 36 million—red tape as well as the lack of adequate training have slowed down the export.

Most of the labour contracts Vietnam has with other socialist countries are government-to-government and they are part of the programmes to settle debts with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

But Tue said in the future it is possible for the Labour Ministry to seek more autonomy in its labour contracts. Such a step would facilitate the labour export and make it easier to settle any possible disputes related to the business. "In the past, labour disputes have become a state problem because the government is the sole organization that handles this issue," he said, adding that the ministry should be given more authority in handling labour export.

Apart from the huge number of Vietnamese overseas workers, at least 2,000 professionals are working in various parts of the Third World. Vietnamese doctors and engineers are providing their expertise in public health care as well as engineering to many African countries including Angola, Mozambique, Madagascar and the Congo. In Algeria, a team of Vietnamese engineers has just completed the construction of a university.

PAC News Service Moves to Solomon Islands

BK1408103190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] The South Pacific news service, PAC News, has decided to make a new permanent home in the Solomon Islands. Its associated broadcast training organization, PAC Board, and its parent body, the Pacific Island Broadcasting Association, or PIBA, will move to the Vanuatu capital, Port Vila.

Radio Australia's South Pacific correspondent, Jemimah Gareth, says the move follows PAC News' forced departure from Fiji in May after the Fiji Government expelled key PAC News staff. Since then all three organizations have been given temporary accommodation in Auckland by Radio New Zealand.

The decision on a permanent home was made by the PIBA General Assembly in Port Vila. PIBA Chairman Mr. (Kabake Fusimaloi) from Tonga said the decision in favor of the Solomons and Vanuatu had been based on telecommunications and air transport costs. Offers were also made by Papua New Guinea, Niue, and the Marshall Islands.

Mr. (Fusimaloi) said he hoped PIBA; the Vanuatu and Solomons Governments; and the (FBS), the West German aid agency, which funds PAC News and PAC Board, will be able to come to an agreement on arrangements for the move by the end of September.

The PIBA General Assembly also agreed to offer associate membership of PIBA to nongovernment radio stations including Fiji's FM-96 and Norfolk Island radio. Mr.(Fusimaloi) said the benefits of associate membership would be worked out by the PIBA Board.

Australia

Further on Australians Being Held in Kuwait

Evacuating Efforts Continue

BK1808071690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs says its continuing efforts to press the Iraqi authorities to allow all Australians to leave Kuwait and Iraq but that Baghdad so far has not been willing to do so.

The department has advised that if all foreign missions in Kuwait do close on 24 Aug as ordered by the Iraqi authorities there will be no consulate support available to those Australians in Kuwait. In this event, consulate support would then be extended where practical from the Australian Embassy in Baghdad.

Australians have also been advised to remain in contact with British consulate staff in Kuwait city. The Foreign Affairs Department has suggested that Australians leave Kuwait as or if safe means of departure become available.

Use of 'Human Shields' Condemned

BK1908044090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0414 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Canberra, Aug 19 (AFP)—Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke on Sunday joined international condemnation of Iraq, describing as despicable its plan to use foreigners as human shields. But he said he would not contemplate "a deal" to try to rescue the 160 or so Australians trapped under Iraqi authority.

"You can't deal in this situation," he said, adding that Australia was maintaining constant diplomatic pressure to try to ensure the well-being of its citizens in Iraq and Kuwait.

In a television interview with the Nine Network, Mr. Hawke said Iraq's threat was "a totally despicable action and, of course, loaded with hypocrisy." The hypocrisy was in its statement that what was being done by others was "in violation of all the norms of international law and rules of human conduct among nations," Mr. Hawke added. "Well what they have done, of course, is unacceptable by any standards."

Iraq has warned that Westerners trapped since its August 2 invasion of Kuwait would be sent to key installations, including chemical weapons factories, to deter attack.

Foreign Affairs Department Spokeswoman Sue Boyd said Sunday the 160 Australians in Kuwait and Baghdad were Iraq's hostages and could be among the foreigners sent to the bases.

"At this stage, there is no news of any Australians being involved," she said. "But it is a matter of grave concern."

Mr. Hawke would not speculate on Australia's role if U.S. President George Bush decided to attack Iraq or move into Kuwait.

"We will make the decisions which we think are in the best interests of this country and within that parameter be conscious of the upping of the stakes and putting in very considerable danger the lives of Australian citizens," he said. He said he hoped war could be avoided, but added it was difficult to predict what might happen because Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn often had not acted on a "rational basis."

Australia would be discussing appropriate responses to the escalating crisis with representatives of the international task force later this week.

Defence Force analysts also were looking at the appropriate rules of engagement for Australia's two frigates, which were expected in the Gulf in two weeks.

Australians' Stay 'Indefinite'

BK1908072290 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Iraqi authorities say Australians in Kuwait and Iraq will not be allowed to leave. The Foreign Affairs Department in Canberra told Radio Australia that authorities in Baghdad have said that Australians would have to remain indefinitely.

The senior foreign affairs official, (Mr. Ric Smith), said Australian Embassy officials in Baghdad had been told that Iraqi authorities regarded Australians as similar to Americans, Britons, and other Europeans. He said there were 80 Australians in Kuwait and 70 in Iraq. The speaker of the Iraqi parliament says foreigners will be held for as long as there is a threat of attack by the multinational military force in the Middle East.

(Mr. Smith) said Australia was very deeply concerned of the development and is continuing to make representations to Iraqi authorities in Baghdad and through the Iraqi Embassy in Canberra.

Citizens in Kuwait, Iraq 'Safe'

BK2008072990 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Senator Evans, has predicted a prolonged standoff in the Gulf crisis. Senator Evans says if there were to be any preemptive military action on either side, it would have occurred in the past five days. However, he says hostage taking is consistent with the declaration of war.

Senator Evans says it is an appalling situation confronting the world, not only in the way Iraq has attacked Kuwait but in supplementing that with a series of acts which are consistent with full-scale declared war.

The foreign minister says Australians in Kuwait should not respond to Iraqi orders for them to join American and British citizens at three central hotels. However, Senator Evans says they should not resist Iraqi forces.

Radio Australia's Middle East Office says there are up to 80 Australians being detained in Kuwait by Iraqi authorities. The foreign minister says Australia's embassy in Baghdad would do its best to accommodate anyone who sought refuge.

Meanwhile, Iraq's ambassador in Canberra, Mr. Afif Isa al-Rawi, says Australians in Iraq and Kuwait are safe. The ambassador said after meeting Senator Evans that the Australians were in good care and would, as he put it, contribute to finding a solution to the situation. The ambassador later requested a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Hawke.

Border Treaty Discussed With Papua New Guinea

BK1608070990 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Talks have begun in the northern Australian city of Cairns on improving the implementation of the Torres Strait border treaty between Papua New Guinea [PNG] and Australia. It is the third meeting of the Australia-PNG Torres Strait Joint Advisory Council. The council was established under the Torres Strait Treaty which was signed in 1978 but which did not come into effect until 1985.

The Papua New Guinea team includes officials from the Departments of Environment and Conservation, Minerals and Energy, and Fisheries and Marine Resources. It is led by the director general of the Bilateral Affairs Division of PNG's Foreign Affairs Department, Mr. (Dennis Renton).

Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, said the joint advisory council is a consultative and advisory body similar to the joint border committee established with Indonesia under PNG's border agreement with Jakarta.

New Zealand

Iraq's Detaining Citizens Called 'Illegal'

BK1908030490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0235 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Wellington, Aug 19 (AFP)—Iraq's decision to detain New Zealanders in Iraq and Kuwait was Sunday termed "immoral and illegal" by New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer. In a statement, he said Iraq appeared to want to use "innocent civilians as pawns in a game of military brinkmanship."

He called the move "immoral and illegal" and urged U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intervene to persuade Iraq to abandon its tactics.

The government has previously said there are 12 New Zealanders in Kuwait and 24 in Iraq.

Government Offers Aircraft for Use in Gulf

BK2008071390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] New Zealand has decided against an immediate commitment to the forces assembling in the Gulf. The prime minister, Mr. Palmer, says New Zealand supports and understands actions taken by nations, which had sent naval forces to the Gulf. But he says his cabinet has decided to offer the United Nations the use of two air force transport aircraft. They will also offer a 30-strong medical team to be used by the Red Cross in Saudi Arabia.